



## OVERSEAS NEWS

**ZIA SEEKS BROAD SUPPORT EFFORT**

# Pakistan presents aid request to U.S.

BY DAVID HOUSEGO IN ISLAMABAD

LORD CARRINGTON, the Foreign Secretary, arrives here to-day for talks with President Zia ul-Haq at a delicate moment in the negotiations over the scale of Western assistance to Pakistan after the Soviet invasion of neighbouring Afghanistan.

Pakistan is seeking a substantial package of military and economic aid from the U.S., including a major debt rescheduling. Sophisticated fighter bombers, artillery and communications equipment are said to be high on the shopping list that a senior Pakistani military mission led by Gen. Gulam Ali, Secretary-General Moslem State, for five hours before seeing President Carter.

The U.S. cut aid to Pakistan last year because of its nuclear ambitions, but now Pakistan's military leadership is also seeking guarantees of security of supply.

The mission to the U.S. is part of a wider effort to seek assistance that includes further support from China and the world, particularly

for Defence, and Gen. K. M. Arif, the President's military adviser, has taken to Washington. On Saturday, Mr. Agha Shahi, the President's foreign affairs adviser, met Mr. Cyrus Vance, the U.S. Secretary of State, for five hours before seeing President Carter.

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Saudi Arabia. Pakistan is trying to convene a meeting of Moslem Ministers later this month as preparatory to a Moslem summit. It does not wish to jeopardise its position in the Islamic world and among non-aligned states by being too non-aligned on the U.S.

The Chinese Foreign Minister, Huang Hua, is due to visit Pakistan on January 18.

More worrying to Western diplomats is the possibility that Pakistan's refurbishing of its outdated military equipment could spark off an arms race on the subcontinent. Lord Carrington, who is due to visit Delhi after Pakistan, is expected to try to reassure Mrs. Gandhi that the strengthening of Pakistan's military capability is not directed at India and that her electoral success gives her the strength to take a more relaxed view of Pakistan. Britain is

supplying India with 200 Jaguar aircraft as part of a major re-equipping of the Indian armed forces that could cost many billions of dollars.

Gen. Zia has, as yet, failed to exploit the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan to rally public support to his regime on the basis of the nation being in danger. Leaders of the Pakistan National Alliance, opposed to the late Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, have pressed him to relax censorship and allow renewed political activity so that popular opinion can be rallied against the threat from the Soviet Union. Gen. Zia, who postponed

elections in October, is likely to be apprehensive that relaxing controls risks unleashing discontent.

It is thought possible that Lord Carrington will add his voice to those of diplomats who have been pressing Gen. Zia to seize the opportunity of the present crisis to widen the basis of his government.

# Bonn toughens on Soviet action in Afghanistan

BY JONATHAN CARELL-BONN

WEST GERMANY is taking a notably tougher public stance towards the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, firmly underlining its support for the U.S. warning Moscow against similar action elsewhere.

At the weekend, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, said West Germany would take no action which undermined the embargo measures already announced by President Carter.

Herr Genscher stressed that NATO means security not only for its own members but also for countries beyond it—for example if helped safeguard the independence of Yugoslavia.

The reference to Yugoslavia follows a statement by Bonn Government spokesman that a situation like that in Afghanistan could not occur in Europe thanks to NATO and its early warning system. Together, the comments are felt to reflect heightened concern about possible Soviet intentions, not least in view of President Tito's poor health.

At a meeting of the West German Security Council last week, attended by Bonn's ambassador to Moscow, no firm evidence was presented to indicate Spain's attitude towards NATO membership, the interpretation of the U.S.-Spanish Defence Treaty and Spain as a potential mediator in the Middle East.

## Safety move for DC-10s

By David Buchan in Washington  
THE U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has ordered airlines to install new safety devices on their DC-10s to try to prevent a repetition of the type of crash which killed 273 people in Chicago last May.

The order is legally binding only on U.S. airlines, which have eight months to comply, but the FAA expected foreign carriers to make the changes as well. The DC-10 is built in the U.S. by McDonnell Douglas, and is certified here.

The two new warning devices are two independently operating systems to track what happens to wing flaps, and a "stickshaker" which shakes the control levers to alert pilots that they may be about to stall.

## Italian Foreign Minister quits

By Rupert Cornwell in Rome  
SIG. FRANCESCO COSIGNA's minority Government was weakened further yesterday by the resignation of Sig. Franco Maria Malfatti, the Foreign Minister in the five-month-old Administration.

Sig. Malfatti's departure, because of ill health, could also have repercussions within Europe. Italy has just begun its six-month term as president of the EEC Council.

The Italian's main task will be to find a compromise—if one is possible—on Britain's net contribution to the EEC budget, which Mrs. Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Government is determined to eradicate. Sig. Cossiga will visit London on January 29 and 30.

## Seoul devalues won in bid to boost trade

BY PHILIP BOWRING IN HONG KONG

SOUTH KOREA'S 16.5 percent devaluation of the won on Saturday—from 484 to 580 to \$1—could mark the beginning of a period of relative weakness for the currencies of the dynamic but small and trade-dependent economies of the East and South East Asian region.

These currencies are reacting to the strain of higher oil prices and to the need for competitive prices which will sustain export volumes as Western markets stagnate and possibly contract.

The won's devaluation was probably delayed by the weakness of the U.S. dollar. But it was a prime candidate for a change for two reasons:

• It is particularly vulnerable to the rise in oil prices, partly because it has a large heavy and energy-intensive industrial sector.

Before the devaluation a trade deficit for this year of \$5bn was forecast, compared with \$1bn in 1979, and only \$1.8bn in 1978.

• Domestic inflationary pressures have been much higher in South Korea than in neighbouring countries. Consumer price increases have been running at close to 20 percent compared with around 15 percent in Hong Kong, 10 percent in Taiwan, and little over 5 percent in Malaysia and Singapore.

South Korea's last devaluation in late 1974 was also prompted by energy costs and the need to retain international competitiveness in the face of world recession.

Taiwan is the most immediately concerned country, being the most directly competitive and, like South Korea,



Afghanistan

December 31 by Mr. Charan Singh, the caretaker Prime Minister. He had then summoned the Soviet Ambassador to demand a withdrawal of Russian troops from Afghanistan. India's UN representative told the General Assembly that Moscow had assured New Delhi that it would withdraw its troops from Afghanistan as soon as possible. "We have no reason to doubt assurances particularly from the Soviet Union with whom we have many close ties," he said.

The apparent pro-Soviet tilt is seen here as the result of several factors. Foremost of these is India's dependence on Russia for political support on issues such as Kashmir and the border dispute with China and the close economic links forged between Moscow and New Delhi over the past decade.

The Soviet Union is now India's largest single trading partner. A trade protocol signed between the two countries envisages a turnover of

Rs 17bn (\$2bn) in 1980, a record.

This includes such vital supplies as 1.5m tonnes of crude oil and another 2m tonnes of petroleum products like kerosene now in short supply in India and which the country is finding increasingly difficult to obtain from the Arabs.

Not announced as part of the trade protocol, but very much a part of it, are strategic and defence supplies from the Soviet Union. The shopping list

for India's defence modernisation programme.

India and the Soviet Union signed a 15-year friendship treaty in 1971 which many fear has driven the country too near the Soviet camp. This feeling was shared by the Janata Government that succeeded Mrs. Gandhi after sweeping her out of power in the 1977 general election.

Mr. Morarji Desai, the then Prime Minister, promised to introduce "genuine" non-alignment. By this he meant he

would correct the tilt towards the Soviet Union that emerged in India's foreign policy under Mrs. Gandhi.

With Mrs. Gandhi back in power, close links with Russia may be revived. She has already spoken of the danger of the U.S. presence in the Indian Ocean and its newly-established ties with China. She has also hinted that she feels the U.S. is sending arms and training insurrectionists in the region. This, she reckons, is acting as a destabilising factor.

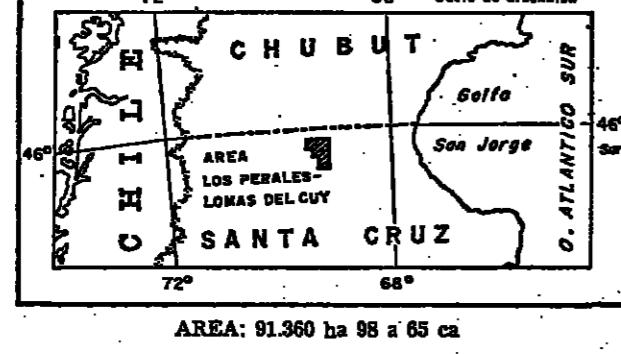
## CONTRACTS AND TENDERS



**REPUBLICA ARGENTINA  
YACIMIENTOS PETROLIFEROS FISCALES  
SOCIEDAD DEL ESTADO**

Call for bids contracting hydrocarbons development and exploitation, according to the following detail:

### LOCATION MAP



TENDER NO.	AREA	OPENING DATE
14-036/79	"LOS PERALES-LOMAS DEL CUY" (Golfo San Jorge Basin) Provincia de Santa Cruz	April 24 1980 at 10:00 am

\* Tender condition set value: The equivalent of US\$ 7,500 in Argentine pesos, payable according to the seller rate of exchange of the Banco de la Nación Argentina in force on the day before the purchase.  
\* Opening of the bids will take place at the "General Belgrano" Hall, No. 777 Roque Sáenz Peña Avenue, 13th floor, at the above mentioned time.  
\* The parties interested in bidding in this tender can buy Special and General Conditions of Tender at the GERENCIA DE LICITACIONES Y NEGOCIAZIONES, Suite 902, 9th floor, at 777 Roque Sáenz Peña Avenue, Buenos Aires, Mondays through Fridays from 8:45 am to 12:30 pm and 2:15 to 3:15 pm from January 2nd, 1980.  
\* Information about this tender can also be obtained at our Technical and Commercial Office in the U.S.A. Argentine Government Oilfields place in Houston, Texas, 3616 Richmond Avenue, Suite 710.

## Argentine Republic

**Ministry of Economy  
State Secretariat of Energy  
Hidronor S.A.**

**Hidroeléctrica Norpatagónica Sociedad Anónima  
Alicopa Complex  
Alicura Hydroelectric Project**

### Prequalification of contractors

Contract No. 541—supply of electric auxiliary equipment

In connection with a subsequent call for tenders for design, manufacture, transport, erection, testing and commissioning of electric auxiliary equipment. Hidronor S.A. will receive and analyse the qualifications and references of those firms or consortia of firms that have adequate technical capacity and wish to take part in the call for tenders.

—isolated phase bus and switch-gears

—generator—main transformer blocks protective devices boards.

Contract No. 542—erection of electric auxiliary equipment

In connection with a subsequent call for tenders for the erection of electric auxiliary equipment, Hidronor S.A. will receive and analyse the qualifications and references of those firms or consortia of firms that have adequate technical and financial capacity and wish to take part in the call for tenders.

(1) erection and commissioning of the following electric auxiliary equipment.

(a) isolated phase bus and switch-gear

(b) distribution transformers

(c) main and secondary mv and lv-ac switch boards, including mcc-dc switch boards

(d) batteries and battery chargers

(e) protective device boards

(2) supply, laying and connection of:

(a) 13.2 kv power cables

(b) lv-ac and dc power cables

(c) control cables

(d) grounding cables for connection of non-conductive parts of electric devices and other parts to general grounding system (including fittings)

(e) telephonic system cables

(f) supply of conductive cable-trays and others including accessories for the above-mentioned cables and for all the cables of the "supply and erection of automation and control systems" contract.

(3) supply, erection and commissioning of the lighting and outlet system, including emergency systems

(4) item item for the clock system

(5) item item for the call signalling system

(6) item item for the fire alarm system

(7) item item for the distributor board of cables at power house

(8) tests for commissioning and industrial operation

### Terms of reference:

The procedure for submission of data and the characteristics of the supply are set in the corresponding prequalification document which may be obtained personally either from Hidronor S.A. Av. Leandro N. Alem 1074, 5th Floor, 1001, Buenos Aires, Argentina, or at the main offices of Electromecanica Engineering Services Ltd., Bellerivestrasse 36, CH-8022, Zurich, Switzerland, and SWECO AB, 2, Lidingösgatan 5-10, 11, P.O. Box 5038, Stockholm 5, Sweden, as from December 17, 1979. The envelopes containing the qualifications and references of the firms or consortia concerned shall be submitted to Hidronor S.A., Av. Leandro N. Alem 1074, 5th Floor, 1001, Buenos Aires, Argentina, before 4 p.m., February 28, 1980.

**Bos Kalis Westminster announce their new construction company**

**Boskalis Westminster Construction Ltd**

**\* Building  
\* Civil Engineering  
\* Development**

The company is co-located with its Bromborough based Group company, Land & Marine Construction Ltd.

For all enquiries please contact:

D.H. de Winter, P.E. Brooker or R.S. Fisher

**Boskalis Westminster Construction Ltd**  
Port Causeway, Bromborough, Wirral,  
Merseyside L62 4TG

Tel: 051 644 9222 Telex: 627436

A member of the Royal Bos Kalis Westminster Group N.V.

## GENERAL PROCUREMENT NOTICE

### PORTUGAL

#### MECHANICAL INDUSTRIES PROJECT

The Government of Portugal has requested a loan from the World Bank to assist in financing a new steel foundry and a valve manufacturing plant in Companhia Metalúrgica Nacional, S.A.R.L. (COMETNA) and additional machinery for the power generation manufacturing division of Sociedades Reunidas de Fabricações Metálicas, S.A.R.L. (SOREFAME). At present machinery and equipment valued at around US\$4 million for the power generation equipment manufacturing division of Sorefame is planned to be procured through international competitive bidding according to the World Bank procurement guidelines. It is intended to be used for the manufacture of hydro-generation units of up to 300 MW and comprising:

—large heat treatment furnace

—automatic welding manipulator

—welding machines and positioners

—large machine tools, such as: vertical boring mill, NC-controlled lathes, parallel lathes, boring and milling machines, jig boring machine, centreless grinding machine

—air replacement systems

—automatic horizontal band saw

—cooling chamber

—double action hydraulic unit

—trailers

—alternators and test equipment

Suppliers and manufacturers who wish to participate in bidding for this equipment are requested to apply for prequalification by contacting

## Algeria to scale down industrial expansion plans

ALGIERS—Algeria must scale down its ambitious industrialisation programme, which is excessively reliant on financial and technical assistance from overseas, the ruling National Liberation Front Party has decided, AP-DJ reports.

At the second of its bi-annual sessions, the Party's central committee decided that in future the country will have to invest according to its means and needs and rely less on imports from exports of oil and gas than in the past.

In its discussion on the economic policy to be followed over the next 10 years, the party's highest body stressed that Algeria must guarantee its long-term energy independence and obtain the maximum benefit from its hydrocarbon deposits.

Measures urged by the committee include: a substantial reduction in foreign financial and technical assistance, greater control over imports, a restructuring of state-run organisations whose size has made them increasingly more difficult to manage, the preservation of Algeria's oil reserves through a reappraisal of hydrocarbon production and a better utilisation of Algeria's human and material potential.

Francis Ghiles, adds: Signs of a slowing down in the natural gas sector are already visible. The pace of work at the LNG gas liquefaction plant currently being built at Arzew, the country's main gas and oil base in western Algeria, has declined in recent weeks. A cancellation of the project is not however, envisaged.

Negotiations currently underway between Algeria's state oil company, Sonatrach, and its Tunisian and Italian partners, which could eventually lead to a doubling of the gas pipeline which is under construction and will carry Algerian natural gas across the straits of Sicily to Europe, are unlikely to lead to any concrete decisions before next year.

As for the eventual building of a gas pipeline from Arzew to southern Spain, such plans as exist are still at the drawing board stage.

The Central Committee's decisions reflect the position taken at the beginning of the five-day meeting by President Chadli Benjedid.

Where borrowing abroad is concerned, Algeria has already reduced the amount of funds it raises in the international capital markets, from \$2.4bn in 1975 to below \$2bn last year. The total hard currency debt cur-

## Upturn for Raleigh in Iran and Nigeria

By Lorne Kerling

RALEIGH, the Nottingham-based cycle company, has achieved a reversal of the downward trend in two of its troublesome overseas markets, Nigeria and Iran, where sales last year were hit by political events.

The company estimates it will sell around 400,000 bicycles in Nigeria this year including output from its plant in Kano, where investment is going ahead to increase capacity to 200,000 bicycles a year.

This follows Nigerian Government measures to ease the strict price controls which had made the company's 300,000 sales in that country last year less profitable than it had hoped. It is also expected that the forthcoming budget will boost the economy and allow Raleigh's large stocks in Nigeria to be reduced.

Iran, formerly a medium-sized market for Raleigh, has placed orders for 25,000 bicycles in the first four months of this year, on the basis of letters of credit.

Orders from Iran, which had been hit by the political troubles, will help boost overseas sales, which had suffered as a result of the strong pound. However, an order from Afghanistan for "a few thousand bicycles" has recently been cancelled, according to Mr. Ken Collins, Raleigh sales and marketing director.

The company sells about 60 per cent of its cycles products abroad.

### Fiat may use Yamaha system

By Richard Hanson in Tokyo

YAMAHA MOTOR, Japan's second largest motorcycle maker, said at the weekend that Fiat of Italy, has bought the option to use the technology for its latest fuel-efficient engine, known as the Yamaha Injection Control System (YICS).

The company is also close to an agreement on licensing the technology to Ford Motor in the U.S.

Both Fiat and Ford already have the rights to the fore-runner of the YICS under agreements signed in 1977.

## ECGD renegotiates Zambia cover

BY STEPHANIE GRAY

TALKS BETWEEN THE ECGD and Zambia over the department's withdrawal of short-term cover for British exports to the country are complicated. They cannot be resolved through a successful UK-Rhodesia policy, according to Mr. G. Jones of the Department's country policy division.

He said short-term cover for business in Zambia had been unavailable since last month when a special arrangement had expired. One of the reasons for the withdrawal had been "a host of transfer delays."

Speaking at a London Chamber of Commerce meeting called to discuss export payments problems in four African markets, Mr. Jones said new arrangements with Zambia were under "active consideration."

Mr. P. D. Thomas, senior plant project manager for Societe Generale Surveillance UK

(SGS), said delays could be avoided through the use of SGS inspectors whose business it is to ensure compliance by shippers with local market requirements.

Previously, however, exporters have complained that the inspection procedures hampered their business transactions.

Prompt reports of inspectors' findings depended upon the supply of correct documentation.

These were often held up by exporters who delayed giving SGS the required information until the last minute.

Mr. Thomas said SGS handled 30,000 licences at any one time.

Of these, less than 3 per cent

involved.

Some delegates claimed they

had outstanding debts dating as

far back as 1971. Sums of

between \$20,000 and \$100,000

and perhaps more were

involved.

Mr. R. Mogford of the Department of Trade, said payment delays must be put into proper perspective as only one of a number of problems emanating from a spectrum of commercial and political changes, including indigenisation, import controls, distribution and communications.

Among the companies at the meeting was the Berec Group

which makes about 37 per cent of its total profits from its operations in Africa and which recently lost its entire Nigerian market; Dunlop, with 17.2 per cent of its earnings made in Africa; and Incapec, with 1.2 per cent, were also represented.

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the result of which may be known soon. He would not elaborate but said later he believed debt rescheduling was likely in a number of the countries being discussed.

The return to civilian rule of Nigeria and Ghana and the overthrow of Idi Amin in Uganda—the three other countries discussed—promised new opportunities for British exporters, but restructuring of all three economies was, of course, the result of political events.

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## UK NEWS

# Ministers challenged over dearer gas bills

BY DAVID CHURCHILL AND JOHN ELLIOTT

OPPOSITION to the Government's plans for 29 per cent rises in gas prices this year began to build up yesterday. Ministers were asked to explain how they intend to use the increased income.

At the same time, the chairman of consumer councils in the gas, coal and electricity industries issued a general policy statement that called for future large fuel price increases to be introduced gradually.

They said that excess profits from the industries should be paid into a special energy fund. "Disadvantaged" consumers should be given help to meet large bills. The comments had been prepared before the 29 per cent increases were announced at the weekend.

Professor Naomi McIntosh, chairman of the National Gas Consumers' Council, said yesterday that the size of the planned increases was a shock.

Her council had expected rises of about 20 per cent. She did not accept the Government's argument that 29 per cent increases were necessary because gas prices had to be brought into line with those of other fuels. She wanted to know how the Government intended to use the extra income.

Dr. David Owen, Labour spokesman on energy, called for the low-paid to be protected from the increases. He also urged the Government to explain what it intended to do with the money.

He said: "These profits will be reclaimed." These profits will be reclaimed by the Government in the form of a loan, but the consumer has the right to insist that they are not just used to pay for tax reductions for the better-off. This money must be used for specific purposes to benefit all energy consumers."

The three consumer councils said the special fund they were

proposing would be used initially to finance improvements in the housing stock to ensure that every house is properly insulated.

It would also be used to ensure that all new houses are built with the most efficient insulation and central heating.

In the longer-term the consumer leaders suggest that the statutory requirement for companies to send all shareholders copies of annual reports. The group says that under its proposal shareholders other than those requesting the full report would receive abridged versions only.

In line with the English Institute of Chartered Accountants the Hundred Group is not in favour of suggestions for reviving the statutory audit requirement for small companies.

Commenting on the Department of Trade's recent Green Paper on company accounts, it says: "The imposition of the statutory audit has for long been accepted as a necessary requirement in exchange for the privilege of limited liability, and we believe it would be wrong to retreat from this position."

The Hundred Group wants a requirement that companies should disclose the extent to which assets are situated abroad, as well as an analysis of assets by currency.

## Economist unit rejects call for inquiry into consumer study

BY OUR CONSUMER AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE ECONOMIST Intelligence Unit, replying to criticism of its recent study into the costs of consumer protection legislation in the UK, has rejected a call by the National Consumer Council for a more detailed examination of the methods used in the study.

It had been commissioned by a group of leading companies and organisations, including Marks and Spencer and the Confederation of British Industry, who were concerned at the cost to industry of complying with consumer pro-

tective legislation passed in recent years.

The study suggested that the cost of complying with the enforcing such legislation could exceed £200m a year. But the council claims that the true figure is much less and is critical of the way that the unit reached its findings.

In a letter to the council, the unit says that the central conclusion of its study is "in danger of being obscured or neglected through over-attention to a quantitative measure

ment which, even allowing for a very considerable margin of error, would still have warranted that very same conclusion."

The central conclusion was that any further consumer protection legislation should be introduced only after an extensive examination into its need and effectiveness.

The group that commissioned the study is seeking a meeting with Mrs. Sally Oppenheim, Consumer Affairs Minister, to discuss its findings.

It has been alleged that some fishermen are dumping the smaller fish back into the sea—where they usually die because of injuries inflicted during netting—because of the quota system, which restricts the amount of fish each boat may catch.

The scientists will be investigating whether the build-up of

mackerel on the sea bed affords a serious pollutant and whether this is affecting other local fishing industries, for example the crab industry.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said that the dumping of mackerel back into the sea was not illegal but its Fishing Inspectorate in the south-west had tried to discourage the habit among fishermen.

The Ministry hopes that the proposed tightening-up of the mackerel licensing system—which comes into effect later this year—will help to alleviate the problem. At present, the licensing scheme is fairly unrestrictive about who can have a licence. The new procedure will restrict mackerel fishing to certain vessels.

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## UK NEWS

# Postal service expects loss

BY JOHN LLOYD

**THE POST OFFICE'S** first-half financial results, publication of which has been delayed, are expected to show a loss in the postal business, and a profit substantially short of target in the telecommunications business.

The aggregate profit figure for the corporation is expected to be more than £100m down on the half-year results last year. Only Girobank shows a rise, some of that due to high interest rates.

The indications are that posts will show a half-year loss of about £12m, while telecommunications will show a profit of about £65m. Girobank is expected to show a profit of more than £2m.

In 1978/79 posts made a first-half profit of £24.2m, telecommunications £14.7m and Girobank £1.3m.

However, estimates for the full year show a substantial recovery. Posts are estimated to show a £30m profit, broadly in line with the target of 2 per cent on turnover. Telecommunications are expected to perform less well—a surplus to presently estimated at £200m would be well below the target return of 6 per cent of net assets, and nearly £150m less

than last year's record profit. The main cause of the drop in profits is prolonged action by computer operators which held up telephone billings for several months last year. The telecommunications business borrowed heavily from the postal business, and from external sources, to cover a running deficit which towards the end of last year threatened to become chronic.

However, it is understood that money from the large bills now being sent out, covering six- or nine-month periods, is coming in more rapidly than expected.

The interim figures will be discussed by the newly-formed, separate boards of the main businesses (posts and Girobank, and telecommunications) on January 21, and by the Corporation's full board on January 22. They are expected to be published on February 12, two months later than usual.

It is thought some sections of senior management opposed publication of the interim figures, arguing that the delay made it pointless to publish. However, they are seen as essential to the success of raising loans in the New York commercial paper market, an exercise the Post Office began last year and which it is preparing to repeat.

# Forty tonne lorry limit imposed

BY LYNTON MCALPIN

**THE NATIONAL FREIGHT CORPORATION**, which operates 20,000 lorries, says in a report this morning that its future needs could be met without raising weights in line with EEC proposals for 44-tonne lorries.

The Corporation believes its operational requirements can be best met instead by raising the gross laden weight from the present British maximum of 32.5 tonnes to 40 tonnes.

Nevertheless, the Corporation points out in evidence to the Armitage inquiry into lorries and the environment that an articulated lorry and trailer combination operated at 40 tonnes may still have an overall design weight of 42 tonnes.

Maximum lorry weights in Europe vary from Britain's 32.5 tonnes to 50 tonnes permitted in the Netherlands.

The European Commission proposed at the end of 1978 to harmonise these weights to cut haulage costs and improve trade in the Community.

Sir Arthur Armitage, vice-chancellor of Manchester University who was appointed by the Government last year to lead the inquiry, is expected to recommend weight limits that will set the pattern for British road haulage companies for the rest of the 1980s.

However, at the moment Britain is under no formal obligation to the EEC to raise its limits, as the Commission's proposals are still being considered by the EEC economic and social committee.

The corporation favours a 40-tonne maximum weight on commercial grounds. Nevertheless, it accepts that lorry benefits have been achieved at "some considerable environmental cost."

Commercial vehicles have "unpleasant side-effects which cannot be disputed," the evidence says, including noise pollution, diesel smoke, road damage, vibration and visual intrusion.

But the corporation considers

that the lorry can be made more environmentally acceptable. Its role in the transport system has to be accepted and action should be taken to reduce the adverse impact of heavy lorries without abandoning their benefits.

In spite of the more obvious "unpleasant side-effects" of the lorry, the corporation believes that much more objective evidence is needed about people's perception of road transport.

The corporation's study shows that a 40-tonne lorry would cost between 5 per cent and 10 per cent less to run than existing 32.5-tonne vehicles.

## Excise duty

But these savings would only be achieved if the vehicle was loaded to 90 per cent of its maximum payload. However, a separate study by the corporation shows that in 1978 vehicles over 32 tonnes operated at less than three-quarters of full capacity.

The corporation believes only limited scope exists for heavier vehicles. But some operators would benefit.

An increase in the maximum gross weight permitted in Britain might lead to savings of £40m in transport costs, representing 0.02 per cent of total spending. Savings of 25,000 tonnes of diesel fuel, equal to 0.4 per cent of consumption might cut total movements by existing 32.5 tonne road freight vehicles by 7 per cent.

The heaviest lorries should pay about £80 a day to travel in Greater London, the Campaign Against the Lorry Menace (CALM) environment pressure group said in evidence to the Armitage inquiry. The group also called for the annual vehicle excise duty for these lorries to rise between £3,000 and £5,000 in the next three years. The highest average fuel and vehicle excise duty now is £2,250 for some of the heaviest lorries.

## CBI seeks women's support

**THE CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY** has invited nearly 80 women from business, politics, the media and leading women's organisations to a half-day conference in London on Wednesday to try to promote a wider understanding of the country's economic problems.

Entitled "Economic Realities

—the woman's role," the conference will be opened by Sir John Greenborough, the CBI president.

"The women of this country are a vital audience. We want to know how we can reach them and their families, and bring home to them the facts about our economic situation," he said yesterday.

# Steel strikers confident of winning 20% rise

BY RYHS DAVID

**AS THE STEEL STRIKE** approaches the end of its second week there is a growing feeling among the industry's 20,000 workers in the Sheffield area that the longer it goes on the more likely they are to win on the terms they have now laid down—a 20 per cent pay increase with no strings.

The men and their union leaders evidently believe they are getting the hang of what is for most the novelty of strike action. They are organising more effective pickets to prevent the movement of steel, not only from BSC plants but stockholders, docks and private sector producers in the region.

Control of the strike in the Sheffield area is passing more and more into the hands of the local strike committee, which has already shown itself significantly more militant than London strike headquarters. Though policy is being formulated nationally by the union, day-to-day decisions are inevitably being taken at the local strike offices in Rotherham by a team of local union officials determined on a fight to the finish.

The main picketing activity in Sheffield last week was outside Hadfield's East Hecla works, one of a number of steel plants lying off the main Attercliffe road out of the city. Dunford Hadfield, a member of the Lonrho group, is one of the few Sheffield private sector companies which competes directly with BSC and for this reason alone is suspected by some strikers of taking advan-

tage of the closure of BSC plants.

Inside the plant Hadfield employees have encouraged drivers to proceed, pointing out that they are not in dispute. In the middle of this tangle are the police, who have been clearing a path for those drivers, many of them non-union, who are continuing to take their lorries in and out.

Senior union officials have been allowed by Mr. Derek Norton, Hadfield's chairman to inspect the books to see that the company has been dealing with previous customers only and has not taken on new business. The company has said it will produce only 5,000 tons of ingots a week during the strike, equivalent to 72 per cent of capacity.

## Two stages

The gesture of opening the books cut little ice with the pickets; however, they said they would probably intensify their action even if the union officials pronounced the company clean.

The pickets want to see Hadfield's shut down for the duration of the strike as part of a wider plan to stop the private sector altogether.

"We have been working on a two-stage approach," one picket said. "The first was to shut BSC. That was achieved right at the start. Now we are hoping by secondary picketing to stop the movement of all steel."

The strike leaders in Rotherham believe they could do this by using a pool of several thousand strikers to mount flying picket expeditions to key

points in the steel distribution system. The example most frequently pointed to is the success of similar tactics by the miners under Mr. Arthur Scargill in 1972 and 1974.

The widening of the dispute in this way—probably bringing much of industry to a standstill in the next few weeks—is based on the belief, as in most other big strikes of recent years, that the battle is with the Government and not the employers. If industry is crippled, the Sheffield strikers believe the CBI will bring pressure on the Government to settle the strike by providing more funds for BSC.

With the pickets firmly set in their militant mood, few appear concerned at the possible longer-term implications for Sheffield steel of a long strike. Workers at some loss-making BSC plants in Sheffield fear redundancies may follow a return to work.

• Union officials have warned that more than 900 flying pickets from the Rotherham area will be sent this week to the BSC's Stanton works at Ilkeston, Derbyshire. Only 5 per cent of Stanton's 4,000 workers belong to the National Union of Blast Furnace and are involved in the strike. The management has challenged this "tiny minority" to hold a ballot to see if they want the strike to continue.

• A call for a one-day Welsh general strike against closures in the steel and coal industries and the effects of Government economic policies in Wales has been made by Plaid Cymru.

# Tougher union reform Bill sought

**THE GOVERNMENT'S** Bill to reform trade union practices and alter some employment rights should be toughened to deal with trade union immunities, compulsory closed shops, secondary picketing and blacklisting, say Britain's chambers of commerce.

Mr. Tom Boardman, president of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, says today in a detailed commentary on the Employment Bill that Parliament has a duty to ensure that the law provides for disputes to be settled by less harmful methods than industrial disruption.

The association, representing 88 chambers and some 54,000 member firms, calls for reforms in the union's immunities under law, which it says have placed unions above the law.

It says these reforms are essential to prevent industrial disruption in defiance of an agreement freely entered into by an employer and a union, and the disruption of concerns not party to a dispute.

The association says that action against "secondary blacklisting" or coercive recruitment tactics by unions, is the Government's most urgent task.

Although the Employment Bill deals with this issue, following the Legate report which highlighted the recruitment activities of the print union, SLADE, the association argues that the proposals are too limited.

It adds that the practice of insisting on closed shops in supplier firms is abhorrent, and that those who seek to enforce such arrangements should be liable to penalties: "Such behaviour constitutes conspiracy against trade which should not be tolerated."

The association's other key proposal is the repeal of that part of the law which makes fair the dismissal of an employee for non-membership of a union. Such a repeal would end the legal enforcement of the closed shop and so deprive pickets of a powerful industrial weapon.

# Union campaign forecast for Robinson's return

BY OUR LABOUR STAFF

**MR. ROBINSON**, who was re-elected at the weekend as Longbridge conveyor despite his dismissal, said he had been sacked for carrying out union policy in opposing closures.

The union, though, has given its support to the BL rescue plan, which entails the closure of 14 plants.

Mr. Arthur Scargill, president of the Yorkshire area of the National Union of Mineworkers, said Yorkshire miners would join engineering workers in industrial action if they were asked.

Members of the inquiry repeated yesterday that they had not yet finished taking evidence, let alone produced a report. Mr. Gerry Russell, the ACENW executive member, said the inquiry has not yet even heard Mr. Robinson's side of the case. The inquiry is due to hold its final meeting on Friday.

Whatever the outcome, official industrial action seems unlikely.

## Perkins call for 40% rise

**WORKERS** at the Perkins diesel engine plant in Peterborough, the world's biggest diesel plant, are to seek a 40 per cent wage rise.

The demand is being submitted on behalf of 7,000 men, by shop stewards. Last year a pay claim crippled production for five days and cost the company an estimated £10m in lost production. The workforce is also pressing for a 35-hour week and extra payments for holidays.

Perkins is already committed to paying production workers an extra £4 a week from April as part of last year's agreement with group workers in the Midlands.

Settlement of the latest pay demand in full would push basic rates up to £140 a week for some workers.

## Protest over restructuring closures

**MEMBERS** of the Civil Service Union are to lobby Parliament on Thursday to protest at the proposed closure of 20 skill training centres as part of the Government cuts in public spending.

The union has also asked for a meeting with Mr. James Prior, Employment Secretary, to discuss the proposed closures, which it describes as "madness."

It says the skill centres to be closed, such as those in Llanelli, Dumbarton, Maryport and Doncaster, are in areas of high unemployment. Though some would be replaced by new premises, many redundant workers would be denied the opportunity to acquire new skills.

## Asda plans DIY drive

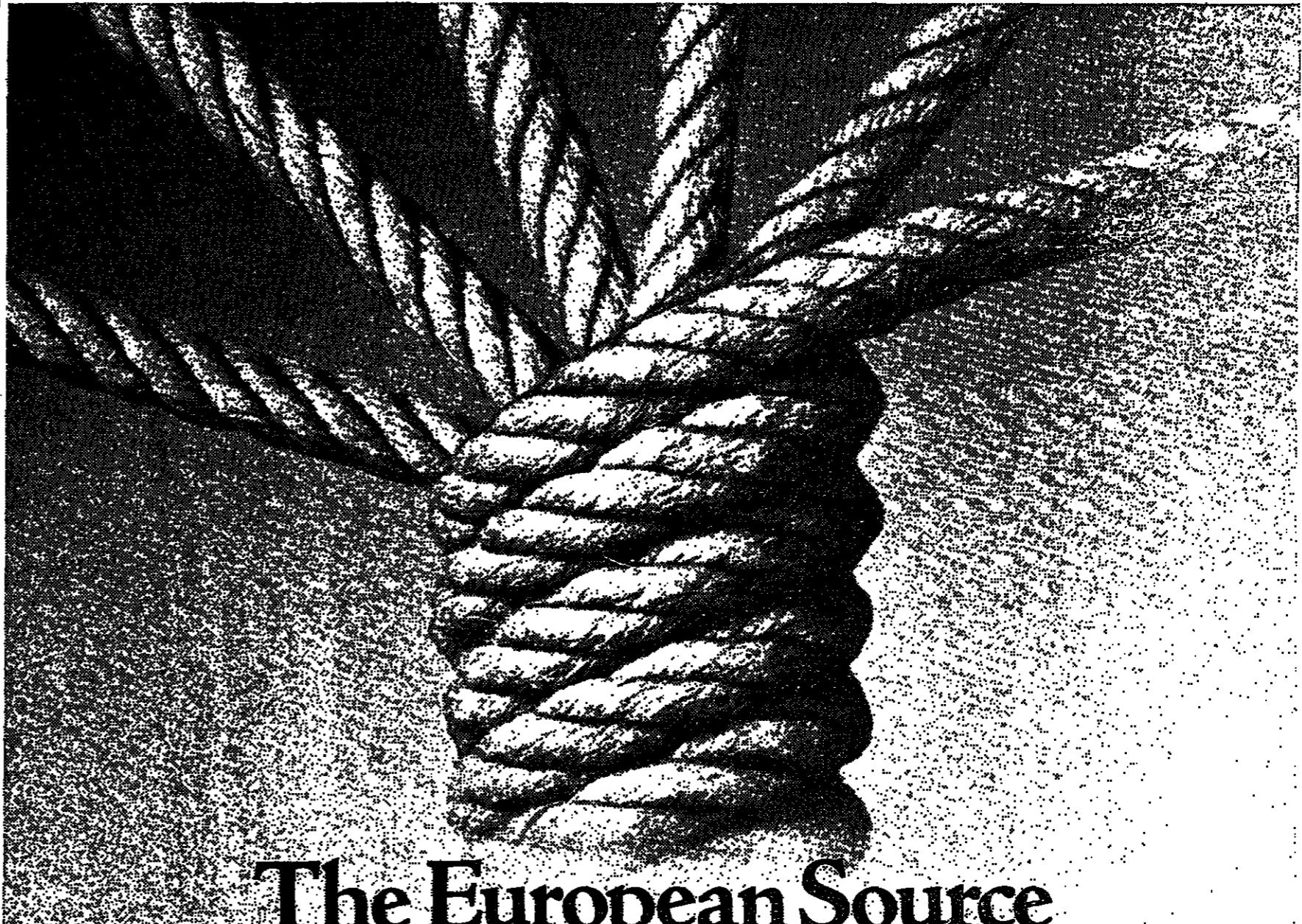
BY DAVID CHURCHILL

**THE ASDA** superstores group plans a move into the fast-growing do-it-yourself market, estimated to have retail sales of over £1.5bn a year.

Asda seeks planning permission to extend several of its largest superstores by up to 20,000 sq ft to cope with larger

stores it has chosen are so far in the North where it is historically in a strong trading position, and depends on availability of space and car parking.

The first is unlikely to be opened for at least nine months.



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David Hancock

The left-hand photograph accompanying the article on new Treasury appointments on Page 3 of Saturday's Financial Times was of Mr. David Hancock, and not as stated.

# Building and Civil Engineering

## £12½m contracts awarded to Bovis

**HYPERMART** premises occupying 17,000 square metres, with parking for 1,340 cars, is to be built at Calcot, Berkshire, under a management contract awarded to Bovis Construction by SavaCentre—the company formed jointly by J. Sainsbury and British Home Stores.

Work on the main structure began in May 1980 and is programmed for completion in July 1981.

Meanwhile work has already begun—as part of the Bovis contract—on realigning the Bath Road (A4) in order to facilitate future traffic flow to and from the new hypermarket.

In-store facilities will include

cold rooms, separate meat preparation and white fish areas, a bakery and a customer restaurant, in addition to full staff facilities. The building will be fully air conditioned.

Structurally, the Calcot SavaCentre will consist of a steel-framed building clad in brickwork and tile.

For Bovis, Bovis Construction is to carry out the management contract for a new three-storey laboratory at Humber Road South, Beeston, Nottingham.

Valued at about £4.5m the work calls for an immediate start and is programmed for completion early in 1981.

The new laboratory will provide facilities for consumer product development, together with associated administrative capacity at the port.

Hamilton Yard, as the new site is known, will cover some eight acres on the east side of Hamilton and Wavenny Docks, thus avoiding the 75 ft width restriction of the bridge entrance to the inner harbour, where SLP already operates on three sites. It will be protected from the North Sea by extensive sea defences, and is approached through a 46 metre (150 ft) channel. Lowestoft has become one of the most important bases in the offshore oil construction industry.

The new development is to be carried out in two phases, the first of which will be completed by March. Phase 1 will have a capacity of five 2,000 tonne modules or the equivalent.

The major contract, worth £1.8m awarded by Shell UK Oil at Shell Haven, is for the design and construction of a 400 ft long by 197 ft wide central workshop building.

It will replace several small workshops scattered around the refinery, and the single-storey structure will cover an area of 73,200 sq ft and be equipped with three gantry cranes of 10-tonne and 5-tonne capacity.

Designed by Mowlem's subsidiary company, Constructional Services, the building will be of structural steel frame on pile foundations. Outside works include building a vessel de-scaling gantry and installing services, drainage and paving.

Work has just started and completion is due in late summer 1981.

Mowlem is engaged on civil works for a bitumen complex at Shell Haven including the installation of groundworks, foundations for the plant, and reinforced concrete structures such as a control room and switch house.

The second contract, awarded by Mobil Oil, is to build piled foundations and heavy reinforced bases to carry large vessels and equipment for a distillate treatment centre at the company's refinery. The contract value is £200,000.

Architects for the project are Beard, Bennett, Wilkins and Partners. Consulting engineers are Budgen and Partners.

A six-storey development

which will provide prime office space in the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne, is being built under another £1.3m award by UK-based property group, Broadgate Developments. The building will yield about 43,000 sq ft of net lettable open-plan office area.

Architects are Geoffrey Purves and Partners of Newcastle upon Tyne. Consulting Engineers are Greener Whitehouse and Associates of Newcastle Industrial estate.

## £2½m Henry Boot awards

WORK HAS recently been started by Henry Boot Civil Engineering on contracts worth £24m in total.

Mainly in coal mining, they include railborne coal unloading facilities at Drakelow A and B power stations, Burton-on-Trent.

Worth £1.2m, this work is part of a revised railborne coal handling plant and comprises an underground reinforced concrete rail unloading hopper with steel-clad building above, three reclaim hoppers, two rail weighbridge pits, rail track, roads and drainage.

A £600,000 contract in connection with the electrification of No. 1 winder house at Frieley Colliery, Yorkshire, is to be constructed, together with associated drainage and finishes, in Milton Keynes. The work, valued at £220,000 forms part of the Corporation's development proposals for central Milton Keynes and will provide access for housing and commercial developments.

Work valued at almost £230,000 for the demolition of an existing fan drift and evasade.

The partial demolition of an existing fan motor house; the construction of new fan drift, evasade and sub-station; alteration and rebuilding of the fan motor house and the strengthening of the existing No. 2 (Upcast) Headstock and Koepe Tower in Nottingham is associated with the installation of a new mine ventilation fan which will increase the ventilation suction pressure in the mine.

In another area of effort 220 metres of boulevard is to be constructed, together with associated drainage and finishes, in Milton Keynes. The work, valued at £220,000 forms part of the Corporation's development proposals for central Milton Keynes and will provide access for housing and commercial developments.

Work has started on the project, which when completed in 12 months, will replace the existing Leeds distribution centre, earmarked for development. The Normanton project will have 88,000 sq ft of handling and storage area as well as a two-storey office block for administration services.

Architects for the project are Beard, Bennett, Wilkins and Partners. Consulting engineers are Budgen and Partners.

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# Technical News

EDITED BY ARTHUR BENNETT AND TED SCHOETERS

## MATERIALS

### Absorbs shocks from earthquakes

RECENT EARTH tremors in Scotland add interest to the development of an anti-seismic damping unit by 3M in Minnesota, together with Sumitomo 3M of Japan and Nippon Kokan of Tokyo.

To safeguard tanks containing highly flammable liquids or cryogenic gases, for instance, in neighbouring molecules. This converts a significant part of the vibrational energy into thermal energy. Because of the elastic nature of the chains, they quickly snap back to their original form, reducing vibrational magnitude while at the same time preparing to meet the force of the next vibration.

This material has obvious applications outside earthquake protection—anywhere sensitive equipment has to be protected from possible heavy ground shocks.

3M UK, Industrial Specialities, POB 1, Bracknell, Berks, RG12 1JU. 0344 58273.

### Less soot on burners

POLARCHEM F7 developed in Germany as a fuel oil additive to save fuel, reduce servicing requirements and lessen pollution, is to be distributed in Britain by Adfield-Harvey, 60 Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton WV1 4QQ (0922 22227).

Damping effectiveness of the material can be attributed to its unusual molecular structure,

## COMMUNICATIONS

### Transmits letters at high speed

NEXOS Office Systems has launched the NEXOS-Muirhead 6400 facsimile transceiver, which is able to transmit an A4 letter from London to Aberdeen—say 792 kilometres—in 30 seconds for 6p.

The 6400 is an analog machine but incorporates compression technology with a "skipping white space" (SWS) facility which provides a service unmatched save by digital systems which are still under development.

With a competitive retail price of £3,000 (plus VAT) the new unit provides savings with transmission costs cheaper than comparable Group II facsimile machines due to faster transmission time and therefore shorter use of telephone line.

Nexos claims that costs with other group II machines

which consists of long chain-like molecules tangled at random. When a vibrational force is applied, these molecular chains become extended somewhat like stretched coil springs.

As these chains move, they meet viscous resistance from neighbouring molecules. This converts a significant part of the vibrational energy into thermal energy. Because of the elastic nature of the chains, they quickly snap back to their original form, reducing vibrational magnitude while at the same time preparing to meet the force of the next vibration.

This material has obvious applications outside earthquake protection—anywhere sensitive equipment has to be protected from possible heavy ground shocks.

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### We did it for Haringey Let's do it for you!

London Borough of Haringey redevelopment project incorporating Woolworth, Sainsbury's, Co-op Electricity Supply Nominees

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FAIRWEATHER

The National Construction Division of the WOOD HALL Building Group

## Yard for North Sea operations

## £12m Euston project

FIRST stage of the redevelopment of Tolmers Square, fronting Euston Road in London has gone to Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons under a £12m award by Greycoat Estates, in association with Camden Council.

The first phase covers construction of an 18,000 square metre office block on the 24-acre site. This will have glazed curtain walling on a reinforced concrete frame and there is to be a basement car park. Completion is for mid-1981.

It is also planned to provide 149 housing units and recreate 149 the square, with a covered arcade.

## Operations in Oman

FOLLOWING the successful installation of natural gas compression facilities at Fahad, Oman, the Process Engineering Division of Yarha Costain is working on another £745,000 contract with Petroleum Development (Oman) for the construction of a natural gas liquids (NGL) plant on site.

Output of 1,000 b/d (barrels per day) of liquids will be injected into the crude oil from the gathering station production. The lean gas resulting from the extraction is injected into the Fahad oil field for gas lift to maintain crude oil production rates.

The scope of work involves installation of skid-mounted compressors, heat exchangers and associated treatment plant, electrical and instrumentation cables and equipment, with pre-installation calibration, testing, flushing and assistance with

commissioning.

Meanwhile, in London, extensions to an office block in Finsbury Square, London, are to be carried out by Costain Construction under a £4.5m contract let by Barramilla Investments.

Work consists of the part stripping out and demolition of the existing office building, construction of a reinforced concrete extension to provide additional space at all floors and complete refurbishment of the existing premises.

The new extension to Christopher Street is to be constructed with a reinforced concrete frame, floor and roof slabs, carried partly on new base foundations and existing foundations.

Work has started on the contract and is due for completion in late 1981.

Architect for the project is Elsom Pack Roberts Partnership, structural engineer Clarke Nicholls and Marcel and partners, Cyril Sweet and Partners.

## Lifts and escalators

TWO ORDERS, worth a total of £600,000 for the supply and installation of lifts and escalators in the London area have been awarded to Hammell and Champness.

The largest order is worth £430,000 and was placed by the London Borough of Brentford for the supply of 21 electrically operated eight-person lifts on the Chalk Hill Estate, Wembley, Middlesex. The second is worth £160,000 and is for lifts and escalators in new National Westminster Bank premises within the Piccadilly, London, development area.

For this job, glass-sided escalators have been designed to operate between the ground

and first floor. The order also covers supply and installation of two eight-person lifts operating at 300 ft per minute and a two-speed 10 person lift.

## Fertiliser complex

N-REN International, responsible for the fertiliser complex for Sudan-Ken Chemicals and Fertilisers, has awarded the contract for civil engineering works on the project to Sir Alfred McAlpine (Sudan) AG. Scheduled for completion by December 1980, the contract includes roadworks, buildings and construction of machinery bases, calling for a total of some 10,000 cubic metres of concrete.

The new factory will be situated about 10 miles south of Khartoum, adjacent to the Shagara oil storage complex, which formed part of the 800 km Sudan-Khartoum pipeline constructed in joint venture by McAlpine Services and Pipelines.

Fertilisers for existing major agricultural developments in the Sudan will be produced by the new complex which has been planned for extension in line with requirements of agricultural schemes being presently evolved.

## IN BRIEF

• Cape Boards and Panels, Uxbridge, has been awarded one of its biggest ever orders, for the single largest civil engineering project currently being undertaken anywhere in Europe. The order, valued at £272,000, is for the supply of Vermiculite and Supax asbestos-free fire-resisting boards for the Dinorwig pumped-storage power station under construction at Llanberis in North Wales, for the Central Electricity Generating Board. The boards are to be used for protection of the internal and external protection of the harbour's sheet pile caissons.

The largest factory has a floor area of 1,980 square metres and offices of 210 square metres; the other two each have 1,420 square metres of production area and 250 square metres of office area.

The contract represents the first part of a construction programme to take place during 1980 and totalling some 16,000 square metres.

Brownhills, has purchased for approximately 10m Seconmetric of Wickford, Essex and Horwich, Lancashire. Wernick is already the largest privately-owned manufacturer of timber-framed system buildings in the UK, and Seconmetric has, in recent years, built up a considerable business in the same area of operations.

• Two housing contracts with a combined value of nearly £1.5m have been awarded to Walter Lawrence (East Anglia). Both are for the construction of dwellings at the St. Faiths Development in Norwich. The first is for completion of phase 4 and involving 171 timber-framed houses of Frameform construction. The second for phase 3 is valued at more than £350,000.

## COMPONENTS Reinforcing problem solved

SCREWED couplers designed and manufactured by CCL Systems, of Surbiton, played a significant role in one of the most complex concrete sliding operations carried out in South Africa—the construction of the new Post Office microwave tower on Lukasrand, Pretoria.

The 180m high tower consists of four vertical lift shafts—three rectangular lift shafts arranged at 120 degrees from each other and a central hexagonal shaft carrying the services and escape stairs.

All the vertical concrete elements of the tower were slip-formed, and it was here that CCL's screwed couplers were employed. These are one of a number of systems developed by CCL for mechanically joining reinforcing bar in concrete constructions.

Screwed couplers eliminate the need for stirrup bars and make it unnecessary for the construction team to drill stirrup bar holes in the formwork. This reduces steel congestion.

The CCL unit allows the

## INSTRUMENTS Bearing failure warning

DETECTION and monitoring of machinery failure can be achieved by examining and analysing high-frequency structure-borne signals.

Incipient failure detector (IFD) by Dunegan/Endevco is portable, battery or mains powered, and will monitor rolling contact bearings for advance signs of failure.

Model 5712 IFD provides a variety of signal analyses based on high-frequency signals which are generated well in advance of the low-frequency signals traditionally monitored for bearing failure.

The compact monitor displays and provides outputs proportional to RMS, Signal Above Threshold (SAT), and Event Rate to provide a comprehensive analysis of signals emanating from the bearing. AC outputs of the raw and envelope-detected data are also available for further analysis.

Model 5712 IFD is available from Dunegan/Endevco (U.K.), Melbourne, Victoria, Australia; and G.S.G. Royston (0763) 61311.

STRAN Builder Franchises

National Steel Products Company, manufacturers of the Stran Builders, throughout Great Britain, are setting up a new network of Stran Quonset and related Interlocking Contractors who have a design and build capability and experience on pre-engineered building system should apply to David Lowe, Director of Marketing, National Steel Products Company, No. 2, Frome Street, Acorn, York YO2 3ZL.

## Messages heard despite noise

Sebiron portable intercoms are battery-powered systems for use in working areas with noise levels of up to 120 decibels. Personal using the systems are equipped with a noise-excluding headset and throat microphone having a plug-in connection lead. Audio contact between personnel can be achieved when the leads are connected to sockets in the system amplifier box which can be positioned at any convenient point in the work area.

Four connection sockets are normally provided on the amplifier box, allowing up to four persons to communicate effectively with each other in a radius of 100 metres from the amplifier position. This range of operation will cover many activities, such as plant maintenance and servicing work in noisy factory areas or on outdoor sites.

Sebiron, Baldwin Street, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6SR. Preston 35983.

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## THE MANAGEMENT PAGE

EDITED BY CHRISTOPHER LORENZ

## Flames to warm City hearts?

Jason Crisp examines Valor, which once made paraffin heaters, then tried garden tools, building materials and gas appliances; only the last succeeded

MICHAEL MONTAGUE, chairman of Valor, quite likes to walk up and down when he is talking. From time to time he stops to stand and warm himself, like a country squire, in front of the flickering "Valorflame" which is the centrepiece of his Chiswick office.

This warning "log fire" is an unusual product which Montague must be hoping will truly bring Valor in from the cold. Indeed, the company seems to be beginning to find a little more favour with the City, which is hoping to see the end of its switchback profits record.

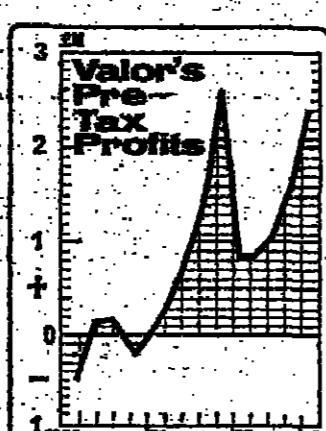
The design of the Valorflame is unusual in that not only do bright yellow flames flick around the imitation logs, and the "embers" genuinely glow red, but they actually produce heat as well. Until now most imitation gas-log fires, mainly imported from the U.S., flickered and did not provide much heat. As a result, the Gas Board would not sell them because they waste energy. They sell the Valorflame, though.

Its logs are vermiculite, the glowing ceramic coals radiate heat and there is a heat exchanger in the hot bed for heating by convection. It is the equivalent of a three-bar electric fire. For those who banish it, simulation log fires, it is better looking than it sounds.

Needless to say, Montague is very proud of it. There is a substantial margin on the Valorflame, which retails at £180, including installation, and he hopes to sell 100,000 a year. "I am a high added value man," says Montague.

Valor's curious mixture of business is a legacy of the past, when it dipped its toe into some diverse puddles, not always avoiding the crabs. At the moment it manufactures petro-can, catering equipment, car window frames, gas heaters, gas cookers, gas lighting and drop forgings. This last, Montague avails remarks, he would be happy to sell.

The biggest sector of the business is gas appliances which account for about three quarters of Valor's £42m turnover. That is the only small independent company in the field is all the more remarkable because less



than 20 years ago it made only paraffin heaters.

Montague himself joined the company in 1962 when it took over his own firm, which made electrical heating appliances. At that time Valor was already starting out along a road of diversification as the paraffin heater market had slumped badly after several fatal accidents.

As a major market it was probably doomed anyway—as living standards rose, fewer people were willing to tolerate the smell or the effort of replenishing stocks of paraffin.

"The writing was quite clearly on the wall," says Montague. "There was no future in paraffin heaters and there we were, with about 95 per cent of our production devoted to making them. It was neither a safe nor a growth business."

Montague joined as deputy managing director in 1964 and shortly after that chairman. He claims he had by then become the driving force behind the company's diversification policy. By going into three new areas of business, Montague hoped to find at least one new winner from them.

The winner turned out to be gas appliances: the "losers" were garden equipment and building materials.

The venture into building materials was not a strategic success, although Montague claims he sold it to Ideal Standard at a profit. When he first went into making plastic cisterns and baths there was a

housing boom, as he is quick to point out. But towards the end of the sixties circumstances had begun to change.

Another temporary business was in making lawnmowers, a decision made in 1965 when Qualcast was the only major UK manufacturer. In 1971 Valor sold out to Qualcast at a time when other major manufacturers were entering the scene, such as Black and Decker with Flymo. "We were most successful and they had made us an offer we could not refuse," boasts Montague.

Inspired, so he says, by reading about exploration for North Sea gas while flying over Spain, Montague took Valor into gas appliances through what can only be described as the back door. By doing sub-contract work for Parkinson-Cowan, making a convector heater, Valor was able to begin to learn the technologies and techniques of making gas appliances.

Within a year Valor was able to launch its own product. The development of the Valorflame shows that the company has come a long way since then. The development was done internally—interestingly two entirely separate parts of the company were asked to try and overcome the technological problems. They were not allowed to contact each other and the better solution was adopted and put into production.

Although Montague's diversification plans were praised in the mid-60s, by the end of the decade they were being strongly criticised, as much of the expanded empire was divested at a loss. The share price had fallen from a one-time high of 30/- to 3/-.

Agrieved institutional shareholders persuaded Montague to call in a merchant bank to carry out an examination.

Within a year, after a substantial re-organisation which involved concentration on its heating division, the company was back in reasonably rude health. In 1972 it tried unsuccessfully to buy Flavel, the gas cooker manufacturer—although it made a sizeable profit on the subsequent sale of its shares to Hoover. He claims Valor now has around 15 per cent of the gas cooker market—mainly at the bottom end.

Valor's success in both gas



Michael Montague by his Valorflame fireside.

failures, such as a half electric half gas cooker—an idea which had failed for another company before—and a wall-mounted gas boiler.

This gave Montague his cooker division—the Newholme-Veritas subsidiary, Stoves, was combined with an earlier purchase of a gas cooker developed (but not produced) by Hoover. He claims Valor

now has around 15 per cent of the gas cooker market—mainly at the bottom end.

Montague remains ebullient about the future. He will continue to look for new products and new investments; he is going into kitchen furniture, for example. And he is talking of entering the growing leisure industry, though he does not care to give away in which direction his thoughts lie.

As always, it seems he will be more prepared than most to take a risk. As long as more profit than fail, then he will still be able to smile.

## EXECUTIVE HEALTH

BY DR. DAVID CARRICK

## Going round in circles

MANY STRANGE adventures have befallen me on trains. Some have been amusing; many maddening; a few distressing; and a number bizarre.

Having recently seen a number of patients suffering from "giddy spells" or vertigo, I was reminded of one of the more bizarre railway incidents. One morning, several years ago, a friendly guard asked me to have a look at a man in a lavatory. I followed him unwillingly. Certainly, there seemed to be a large man in the lavatory, but owing to his size and the foetal position he had adopted, the door would only open a few inches, allowing me a mere peep at the unfortunate occupant, who was moaning and being sick alternately.

Questioning was much hampered by these interruptions, and examination was impossible except for one damp wrist which contained a surprisingly satisfactory pulse. I gathered that the man had become dizzy suddenly; that he had sinusitis; and that he had been swimming before breakfast. Although faintly negative symptoms, I decided against stopping the express as it limped wearily through suburbs to London; but I briefed one passenger to get an ambulance as soon as we arrived, and another to arrange help in extracting the man from his wooden womb. Before the train had drifted to a halt, both men leapt off into action, and I promised the trapped vomiter a rapid release.

I was too optimistic. Twenty minutes passed before the ambulance arrived and, as to the station staff, one minor official seemed more worried about removing the train from the platform than anything else. No, he had not got a screwdriver to remove the door and it was not his job. No, there was no stretcher—would a fish-barrow do? His final suggestion was that I should go back whence I had come so he could have his platform back! Fortunately the ambulance men arrived before I had created a second casualty for them, and we soon had the door off and the poor patient on his way to hospital, wherein his "epidemic vertigo" was treated satisfactorily.

Vertigo is a terrible symptom: the patient finds that everything is going round him or vice-versa. Standing is impossible and, as with my man, nausea and vomiting often occur. There are many causes for the condition, some of which are serious, but the commonest are more alarming than sinister, to the patient and those around him.

Exempting relatively rare conditions, the symptom is

caused by malfunction of one of the organs of balance (the labyrinth, in the inner ear) peripherally, centrally or in the vestibular nerve connecting the two. Such malfunction may be purely mechanical, as with seasickness, which is caused largely by the delicate organs being subjected to rapid alterations in acceleration in different planes, as a result of pitching and rolling.

Interference with blood-supply to the labyrinth, as may occur with arterial disease, hypertension or severe anaemia, can lead to transient vertigo when the patient gets up too quickly. Alcoholic poisoning can produce a similar picture, as can hormonal disturbances in some menopausal women.

Ménière's syndrome is marked by repeated attacks of vertigo with vomiting, but a notable feature here is progressive deafness plus a tiresome tinnitus between the attacks of vertigo. It is a most unpleasant complaint but considerable progress has been made in recent years, particularly with medicines, for the alleviation of a crippling malady.

Fortunately, a far more common cause than any of those diseases mentioned (such as that which afflicted my puking passenger) are completely curable acute disorders. Sometimes the cause is a virus; more often it is a mixed bag of organisms spread from the upper respiratory region to the labyrinth. Treatment by antibiotics, inhalations and drugs such as Stemetil and Stelazine render the patient quite well within a few days, and so he can be reassured after examination—but not through a six-inch gap in the doorway of a lurching BR lavatory.

## Business COURSES

International Company Lawyers Conference, Geneva, February 20-22. Details from Management Centre Europe, avenue des arts 4, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium.

Word Processing for Supervisors, London, February 13-15. Fee: £250 (plus VAT). Details from Courses Administration, Computer Training School, Cannock, Staffs, WS11 3HZ.

Financial Control of Research and Development, Bradford, February 27-29. Details from Brian Twiss, the Management Centre, Heaton Mount, Keighley Road, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD9 4JU.

Marketing and Budgeting for Profit, London, February 5-6. Fee: £150 (plus VAT). Details from Industrial and Commercial Techniques, Park House, Park Street, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 3PT.

Successful Systems Design: The Human Element, Uxbridge, Middx, February 25-29. Details from the Secretary, Management Programme, Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middx, UB8 3PH.

Project Management, Cranfield, February 17-29. Details from Barry Fielden, Cranfield School of Management, Cranfield, Bedford, MK43 0AL.

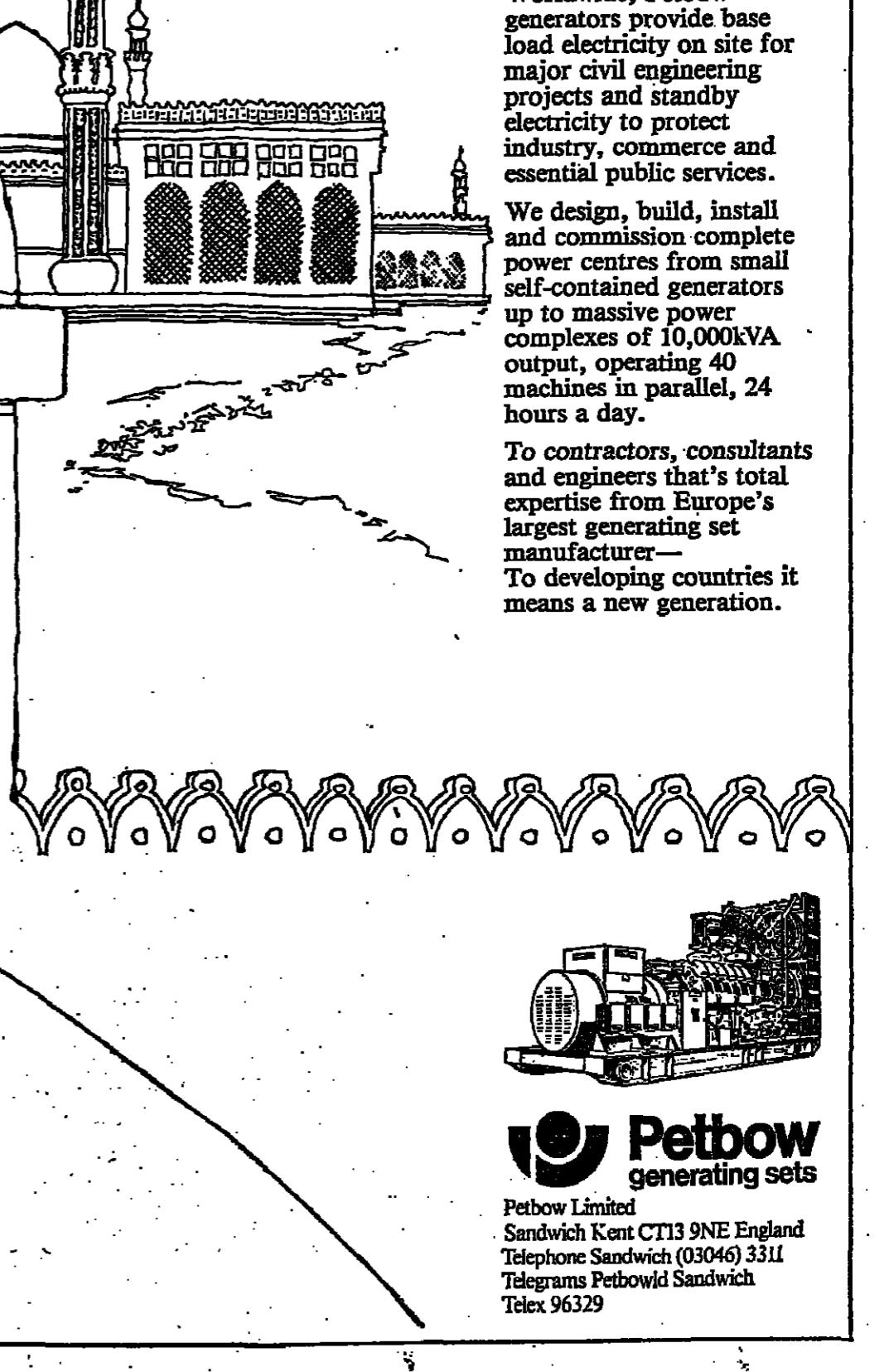
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# Down with John of Gaunt

BY MALCOLM RUTHERFORD

THERE IS at least one matter on which one agrees with Charles I: Shakespeare is better read than seen.

Thus re-reading *Richard II*, the other day for the first time since one had acted in it at school turned out to be a salutary experience. The play I remembered consisted basically of splendid speeches by Richard; for example, the one which includes the lines "For God's sake let us sit upon the ground and tell sed stories of the death of kings." Others may recall the speech by John of Gaunt which begins "Methinks I am a prophet now inspir'd."

None had always regarded Gaunt as a tedious old fool—rather like Polonius behind the arras—whose outburst about the state of England cut in the way of the main business which was the solidities of King Richard. What one had never quite realised before, however, was the intensity of the politics.

## Divine right

If one had thought about it at all, the moral was that Richard was too much of a poet to be much of a king. In this one appears to be in quite good company: Coleridge, Swinburne, Yeats and Wilde all played around with the same interpretation. Yet on reflection the idea does not stand up. Indeed you might advance the same evolution (some people do) about the flaws in Hamlet, Macbeth, Othello or even Romeo. The real reason why these characters speak like poets (rather than say like Mrs. Thatcher or Mr. Heath) is that they are the heroes of poetic drama written by Shakespeare. It is as simple as that.

The politics are based on the deposition of Richard by the usurper Bolingbroke, who happens to be John of Gaunt's son. There has been an argument ever since about whose side Shakespear was on. Again it seems to me that the answer is simple: he was far too good a playwright to have sided wholly with either. Yet what cannot be argued with any degree of seriousness is that he was anti-Richard and pro-Bolingbroke. There are several reasons for

## Fall frustrates O'Neill

JONJO O'NEILL, who had seemingly been cruising to an easy victory in the NH jockeys' championship, now finds himself out of action for at least 10 days, following Netherton's

whittled away or turned into a deficit.

With Tommy Carmody a long way ahead of the first-named pair, and John Francome still suffering from back trouble, it would appear that only Lamb will be able to take advantage of O'Neill's absence.

Those who had, in my opinion, been clutching at straws in backing King Weasel for the Cheltenham Gold Cup at odds of 33-1 and 25-1 a day or two before Saturday's display, may well have the name of a top-class chaser rather than that of a smart handicapper on those Gold Cup vouchers now.

The outlook for today's racing seems, at best, to be only fair. Although no inspection

is planned for Wolverhampton, the course has taken a severe hammering from the first. There is a course inspection planned for 7.30 am at Cheltenham.

Should racing go ahead at Wolverhampton, Pulse Rate should not be missed in the Steurbridge four-year-olds' hurdle. This Daily Express Triumph Hurdle prospect would have been ridden by O'Neill.

Crash fall at Newcastle on Saturday.

Successes on Clayside and King Weasel in earlier races, however, had taken the Irishman's score to 62—14 ahead of Ridley Lamb—and I have no doubt that we shall see O'Neill back in action before that commanding lead has either been

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## THE ARTS

Bush

## Ooh La La! by B. A. YOUNG

The last four plays that Mike Bradwell directed for his Hull Truck company have been scripted work, but in *Ooh La La!* (an absurdly mistitled piece) they have gone back to their more usual system of working out their plays through extempore on a theme.

The theme is love, and the company have devised three different channels for its display. Monica (Brigit Ashburn), leaving her small daughter with her husband, comes to visit her widowed father Tony (John Blanchard), a don at a northern university. Martin (Stephen Warbeck), another don at the same establishment, has two students, Kath (Frances Brookes) and Hugh (Hamish Reid). Alan and Sarah (Mark Brignal and Rosalind March) are a married couple on the verge of a break-up.

Tony's family affections are straightforward, though Monica is not sure that she wouldn't be happier living with her

father than with her husband. Kath has a crush on Martin, a normal teenage affliction. Hugh gives up his telephonic affair with an Edinburgh girl because he has fallen for Kath; but when she rejects him, he retreats into sulky Scottish Left-wing politics instead.

Martin is having a serious affair with Sarah and makes light passes at Kath. Alan has a rigorously husbandly affection for Sarah and finds her defection incomprehensible.

These assorted affections are most beautifully illustrated in a series of two dozen short scenes. They are accurately observed, and the quality of the dialogue is extraordinarily polished. The intimate little scene where Hugh plays with Kath's feet, and in a different way Martin's encounters with Sarah are love-scenes of high quality. Martin's seminars, where he shows off his French to impress the young, are sterling, and the students' essays, Hugh angrily indignant about Scotland's

socialism, Kath increasingly incoherent about the conduct of the human race, are touchingly real. We have a glimpse too of Alan teaching at his school and singing in the folk-club he patronises.

The naturalistic scenes are punctuated by songs; and Mr. Warbeck and Mr. Brignal (who provide the music will boldly leave the stage to play piano or guitar. The usual deficits of extempore work show now and then. There is too little interplay between the three groups, who seem to be used like laboratory specimens; and some of the scenes, notably a tedious party where Tony and Monica entertain Martin, go on too long—though this scene is distinguished by some wonderfully inventive show-off conversation, "sub-titled" "Scramble," as Tony calls it. If this company is so good that the faults are easy to forgive.

Mike Bradwell himself is the director, and a usefully versatile set is the work of Geoff Rose.



Thomas Allen and Margaret Marshall in Act 2

Cottesloe

## The Long Voyage Home

by MICHAEL COVENY

When these four early "sea plays" by Eugene O'Neill opened a year ago, B. A. Young recommended them as collectors' items and drew attention to their narrative interest. I would only add that, opening up Bill Bryden's O'Neill retrospective at the National, they form a potent contribution to Mr. Bryden's naturalistic work with a company blended from his Royal Court days and the Celtic resurgence he led at the Edinburgh Lyceum.

In that respect, the work is as satisfying as anything I have seen in the Cottesloe. It is all too easy to dismiss O'Neill's literature these days; what is farce, as John Lah notes in his programme, is that before O'Neill, America had entertainment; after him it had drama." The awful conclusion that the two phenomena are by definition irreconcilable is

deftly avoided in this physically seductive and brilliantly performed evening.

The sailors are all characters from O'Neill's seafaring experience and there is a dramatic logic to the order in which the plays are given, evocatively supported in Hayden Griffin's design. *The Moon of the Caribees* is on deck, where rollicking booze and a knifing takes place under the bobbing eye of the moon and the stars (the ship is still, the heavens move); the next two plays, *Bound East For Cardiff* and *In The Zone*, take us below to the forecastle, where an ebullient prototype for the expressionist hero of *The Harry Able* expresses with his dreams, "in a farcical, admitted" few-handed, interlude finds the O'Neill surrogate, Smitty, challenged as a spy and revealed as a profligate alcoholic and hopeless lover.

Jack Shepherd, incredibly, offers a rounded portrait of a man being sucked against his will into the ways of his fellows; while there is unbeatable support from Brian Glover, James Grant, John Salthouse, Simon Dutton and, especially, Niall Toibin, who steals the show in *The Moon of the Caribees*. Such is the whole evening tool or the feel of a John McCormick ballad, and nothing inappropriate about that.

Wigmore Hall

## Frankl's Schumann

by DAVID MURRAY

On Saturday the second of Peter Frankl's five all-Schumann recitals consisted of the three piano sonatas. That was not only eminently sensible programming, but rather bold: the sonatas are, with the marginal exception of the F-sharp minor one, the most neglected of Schumann's large-scale piano works for reasons that are understandable but insufficient. All three pieces came with the high tide of his piano-writing—they are neither early essays nor late, tired products—and display original beauties of an order comparable to those of the great non-sonata-form works. Tight Classical sonata-construction was not to be expected, and admittedly Schumann's finales are best found in the G minor Sonata op. 22, where he suggested high mettle as well as strong formal purpose. The performance was compromised only by slightly ramshackle playing at the whirling conclusions of the outer movements—Frankl's rapid passage-work sounds effective, but it is generally more

faint than articulate. The old-fashioned drama of the F minor which ensures resonant warmth at the expense of bracing air. He fixed the momentum of each movement early, and thereafter let nothing defeat it. On the one hand that gave great support to the substantial continuity of discursive movements—like the finale of the F minor Sonata; on the other, it left those large vistas innocent of striking features or expressive surprises.

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Monday January 14 1980

## Responding to Moscow

THE Soviet Union must have realised that it would have to pay a price for the invasion of Afghanistan. It must also, one can only assume, have calculated that it would be able to afford the price. In the wider detente, as measured by the barometers of arms control negotiations, the Kremlin may well have felt that there was not too much to lose. Prospects for American ratification of the latest strategic arms limitation treaty (SALT 2) were looking increasingly remote, even before April 1980, and the West had not moved in the way President Brezhnev had hoped to his Berlin "peace initiative" of last autumn. Last month's NATO decision to deploy a new generation of American nuclear missiles in Western Europe, put paid to further progress in arms control, at least for the time being, in Soviet eyes.

### Two crises

Whether or not Moscow expected the economic sanctions that President Carter has announced we may never know. But it is obvious that he was obliged to respond toughly, even more so as the fate of the American hostages in Tehran is still in the balance. The two crises may provide him with a chance to display leadership in an election year—as Moscow has been quick to point out—but there is more to it than that. Any American President would have been compelled to react, almost irrespective of the merits of the course of action decided on. Not to do so would have meant effectively running up the white flag in the super-power struggle for global influence.

### Economic penalty

President Carter's economic sanctions are composed of two main elements—the embargo on grain exports and the ban on sales of advanced technology to the Soviet Union. The grain embargo may not, in itself, make any immediate difference to the East-West strategic balance. But meat shortages in the Soviet Union, and possibly Eastern Europe, too, should be more than enough to make the Kremlin leadership uncomfortable—and that is one of the aims of the exercise. The ban on high technology, if it is supported by other Western countries, could have more far-reaching effects not only on the Russian economy but also on the arms build-up that is rapidly turning

about a "tax on employment." Mr. Healey was able to get away with surcharges on employers' contributions, now totalling 3½ per cent of payrolls, in various smoothing out the trade cycle, has itself been a major source of disturbance.

The inflationary bias arises from the fact that the correctives have been operated according to government discretion rather than by rules. Governments have naturally tended to err on the side of over-optimism and have tried to spend their way into target levels of employment not in fact attainable without more fundamental reforms. They have been panicked into large injections of spending power during recessions, but been slow and reluctant to reverse course in periods of inflationary boom.

### Systematic way

These defects are, however, not inherent in economic regulation as such but in the kind we have had. The indirect tax Regulator, for instance, has not varied up and down in a systematic self-balancing way, but been used when Chancellors have wanted to take quick action. Most so-called stabilisation measures have simply been hastily assembled packages prepared for a crisis.

A properly designed cyclical regulator, in the strict sense of the term, need not suffer from these disadvantages at all. The essential criteria are that it should operate according to rules rather than discretion and that expenditure increasing and revenue-producing measures should balance out over the cycle as a whole. The measure I am suggesting is not new. It is simply that employers' National Insurance contributions amount to 10 per cent, plus the Healey 3½ per cent surcharge, making 13½ per cent in all. They bring in about £10bn of revenue. If the whole of the 3½ per cent were rebated at the bottom of the next recession, this would be worth about £22bn at current values. As good a guess as any is that about half of this would be reflected in lower prices and half retained for other purposes. The impact on the RPI would then be to reduce it by a little less than 1 per cent.

The proposal has had a chequered career. It was first suggested in the Coalition Government's Employment White Paper of 1944, after an idea by the Nobel prize-winning economist Professor James Meade. It reappeared as a legislative proposal in the Selwyn Lloyd 1961 Budget; but it was withdrawn after an outcry

presents a trickier problem. The best approach would be to have a separately administered fund which would invest in financial assets in boom times and realise investments in times of slump.

A separate fund could also lay to rest the whole argument above, which government targets for a gradual reduction in the borrowing requirement should be met on a year-by-year or trend basis. An Unemployment Regulator Fund which went into automatic deficit during recession would do most of the work required by "built-in stabilisers," and the PSBR could be brought down on the basis of actual figures rather than on a cyclically adjusted basis to the great relief of instinctively sound money politicians.

The operation of such a Fund would be helpful to monetary policy. For it would be buying financial assets in the expansionary phase of the trade cycle, when the government broker would otherwise have the greatest difficulty in selling them at non-reserve levels of interest rates. It would be selling these assets in periods of recession when funding tends to enter another loop.

A Keynesian economist can regard the rebate simply as demand correctives administered in a particular way. Employers' National Insurance contributions amount to 10 per cent, plus the Healey 3½ per cent surcharge, making 13½ per cent in all. They bring in about £10bn of revenue. If the whole of the 3½ per cent were rebated at the bottom of the next recession, this would be worth about £22bn at current values. As good a guess as any is that about half of this would be reflected in lower prices and half retained for other purposes. The impact on the RPI would then be to reduce it by a little less than 1 per cent.

The main technical problem would be to fix the rebates and the levies so that they balanced over a cycle despite the fact that unemployment has been on a rising trend. There are many statistical methods of reducing the upward deviations in the unemployment figures and raising the downward deviation from trend to make the scheme balance and a rough adjustment is shown in the table. Inflation

or to a recession, however brought about, is simply for a rise in unemployment to be superimposed on a rising rate of inflation. This "northeast" movement, when we have the worse of all worlds, is shown after the Jenkins squeeze of 1979, the Healey squeeze of 1974, and now in the Howe squeeze. The next stage is for inflation to start falling, but with unemployment still rising. After that inflation falls, and so may unemployment. But governments are not happy to leave recovery to natural forces, and we have the inflationary boom shown by the north-westerly sections of the loops, when demand is stimulated and inflation rises. This happened under Mr. Heath in 1972-73 and Mr. Healey in 1978-79 (to an admittedly smaller extent). Then the brakes have to be jammed on, and the economy is ready to enter another loop.

The payroll rebate would come into operation in the worst north-easterly sections when unemployment is rising, but there is as yet no visible success in counter-inflation, and there are loud cries that "something must be done." Something is

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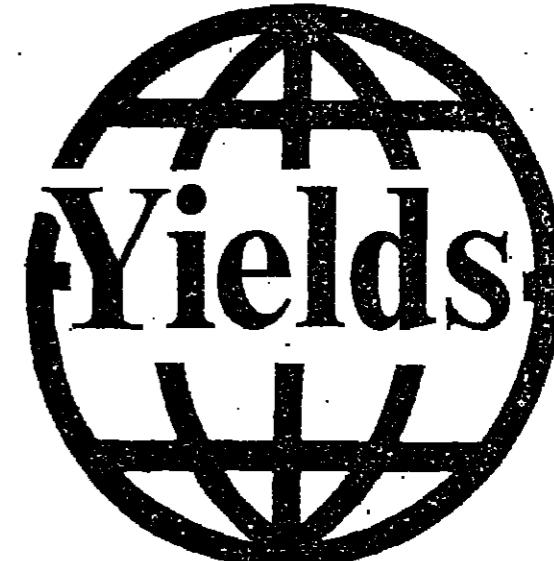
FINANCIAL TIMES

# Eurobond Quotations and Yields

AIBD

THE ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL BOND DEALERS

At 31st DECEMBER 1979



The Association of International Bond Dealers (AIBD) compiles current market quotations and yields for Eurobond issues. These quotations and yields are published monthly by the Financial Times.

The Association's prices and yields are compiled from quotations obtained from market-makers on the last working day of each month.

There is no single stock exchange for Eurobonds in the officially recognised sense. Trading is done on a telephone basis between dealers scattered across the world's major financial centres. Membership of the AIBD (which was established in 1969) comprises over 450 institutions from about 27 countries.

## Eurobonds in December

BY FRANCIS GHILES

DECEMBER PROVED to be a quieter month in the Eurobond markets than might have been expected. The events in Iran and the surge in the price of gold could have unsettled the markets badly but, though the performance was lacklustre, the three weeks or so before Christmas were fairly quiet with some traders reporting good business during the third week of the month when a number of the large bond houses had already closed their books.

In the dollar sector a new type of borrower appeared, a U.S. Savings and Loan Association: unfortunately the lead manager of the planned Dade Savings and Loan Association bond, Kidder Peabody, had to pull the issue because of the deterioration in market conditions later in the month.

The month of December

started quietly but in depressed mood. The deepening crisis between Iran and the U.S. cast its shadow. A rally which began at the tail end of November essentially as a result of the fall in U.S. interest rates, quickly evaporated. The uncertainty which ringed the market bad causes which were all too familiar to dealers and investors.

The dollar exchange rate came under growing pressure; U.S. interest rates, which had declined in the later part of November, began to move up again, while the price of silver and gold soared to levels not seen since the Volcker package eight weeks earlier. At the same time demand built up for stronger currency bonds, be they Swiss Franc or Deutsche Mark denominated.

A graduated dollar bond for the ECSC was launched, the third of its kind for this borrower, and met with a good reception, but otherwise the bulk of new offerings came in the form of floating rate notes. On December 4, the first straight dollar Eurobond in four months was announced for the EIB. Two-thirds of this issue were intended for the UK investors but in the event about that proportion went to overseas investors. A number of straight dollar bonds followed but some,

The climate in the Deutsche Mark sector meanwhile remained buoyant with all new issues well received in the market. A few days before Christmas the Capital Markets Sub-Committee reported a record calendar of new issues for the four weeks to January 21: DM 1.2bn, a higher figure than at any time in the past 12 months.

The month of December

because of the tight terms on which they were offered, were not well received as underwriters who had received from the lead manager far more than they could place were obliged to dump paper in the secondary market.

This was, in particular, the case with the issues for GMAC and Eksportfinans. Maybe the most interesting feature of the month, even if the issue was pulled, when the market deteriorated was the mortgaged-backed certificate offering by Dade Savings and Loan Association. AS and L must offer CDs rather than securities if it is to tap overseas markets without paying U.S. withholding tax.

But AS and L cannot issue CDs in London because it is not a bank. So investors have to be offered bearer depository receipts in a European entity which would have channelled the funds into the necessary CDs.

A few months ago S.G. Warburg arranged a private placement of such instruments but nothing of a public nature had been launched. Despite the initial setback, at least 40 to 50 such S and L Associations are understood to be waiting in the wings and as such would be a welcome adjunct to the growing list of U.S. names which are tapping the Eurobond market.

Later in the month new issues continued to trickle into the market. Some whose terms were realistic, like the FRN for Midland Bank were, warmly received, others which offered too fine terms fell to heavy discounts as soon as they started trading; as it was, the levels at which they settled in pre-market trading provided an accurate assessment of what investors thought of them.

As is usual when the dollar sector puts in a lackluster performance, bonds dominated in stronger currencies were in strong demand. Deutsche Mark bonds were well received despite the fact that the coupons on new offerings continued to be cut as the month proceeded.

Domestic D-Mark bonds also found eager non-German buyers as did Schuldcheine notes of which more were sold than foreign D-Mark bonds. By December 21, demand was so good for foreign D-Mark bonds that the Capital Markets Sub-Committee was able to settle for the highest new issue calendar in 12 months, some DM 1.2bn. Some German bankers however had doubts as to the market's ability to absorb such a large volume.

Swiss Franc bonds were also in good demand and, in this sector as well, yields offered on new issues continued to decline.

As they searched for new currencies in which to raise funds, borrowers came across the Norwegian Krone. This issue arranged for the Nordic Investment Bank proved to be a great success and was increased from its initial size to Nkr 80m but it is doubtful whether this sector will really emerge as an important one. Two issues were arranged, which were denominated in Austrian Schillings, a rare occurrence.

Despite the prevailing morosity throughout much of last year, statistics compiled by Morgan Guaranty Trust showed that a record number of new issues were floated in 1979: \$15.7bn worth of Eurobonds was launched, \$1bn more than the record set in 1977 and well above the figure of \$14.13bn for 1978. Dollar denominated issues accounted for 66.8 per cent of all new issues, a record percentage while D-Mark issues only accounted for 19.7 per cent in 1979 as compared with 37 per cent in 1978 and 23 per cent in 1977.

However as the volume of German Schuldcheine notes estimated to have been sold last year to non-German residents is estimated by German bankers to be over DM 10bn, Eurobond figures alone do not tell the whole story.

COMPILED FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL BOND DEALERS BY INTERBOND SERVICES LTD. \*

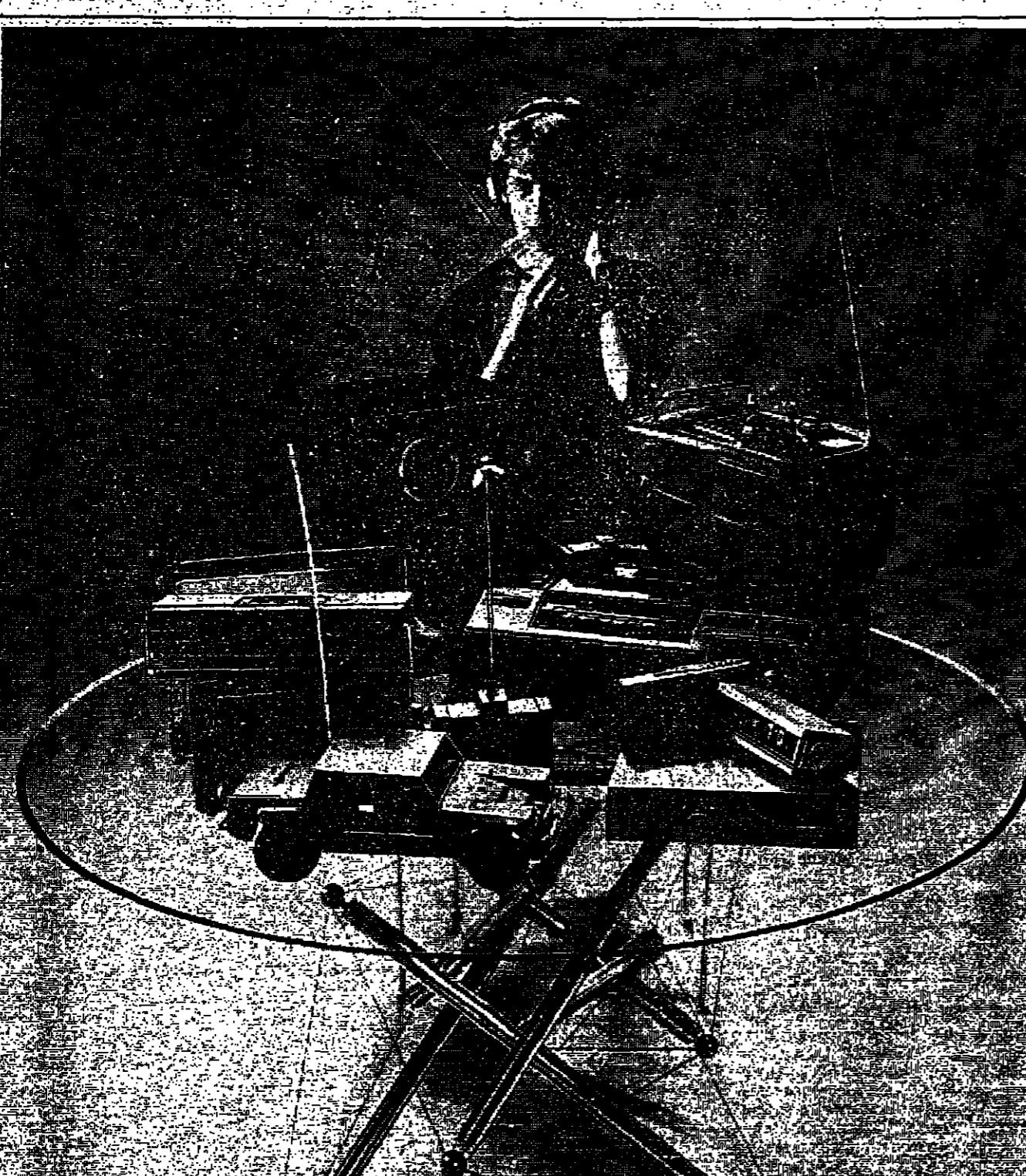
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All rates quoted are for indication purposes only and are not based on, nor are they intended to be used as a basis for, particular transactions. In quoting the rates the Association does not undertake that its members will trade in all the listed Eurobonds and the Association, its members and the Financial Times Limited do not accept any responsibility for errors in the table.



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Creditanstalt-Bankverein, Schottengasse 6, A-1010 Vienna.

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For International Bonds: Walter Vogl (Telephone: 6622/2222, Telex: 136948)

Code for Reuter Monitor Securities Program: CA DA, CA DB

MEDIUM ESTABLISHED YEAR OF ISSUE	BONDHOLDER/ COPARTNERSHIP	PRICE	INTEREST RATE	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING	DATE OF PAYMENT	BONDHOLDER/ COPARTNERSHIP	PRICE	INTEREST RATE	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING	DATE OF PAYMENT	BONDHOLDER/ COPARTNERSHIP	PRICE	INTEREST RATE	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING	DATE OF PAYMENT	BONDHOLDER/ COPARTNERSHIP	PRICE	INTEREST RATE	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING	DATE OF PAYMENT	
15- 1977 BANQUE DES ETATS D'AFRIQUE 160.00 9.00 1/1/1982	90 1/2 2.62 15.47 9.54	101	1000	21/1978	10-2	1976 BANQUE IRON FIN	92 1/2 5.67 11.34 10.27	100 1/4 1980	2.00	75	1977 BRITISH COLUMBIA HYDRO	84 2/4 5.37 11.71 9.15	102	1000	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983
15- 1977 CO-OP DENMARK	89 4.38 15.18 11.18	100	1000	1/1980	10-2	1975 BANQUEIRATUR FIN	94 1/2 2.42 12.11 9.81	100 1/2 1980	2.00	75	1975 BRITISH COLUMBIA HYDRO	86 2/4 5.42 12.63 11.51	102	1000	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983
15- 1979 ARGENTINE REPUBLIC 94.50 9.875 1/7/1982	89 4.38 15.18 11.18	100	1000	1/1980	10-2	1972 X MARYLAND INDUSTRIES	83 3/4 4.71 12.35 9.25	100 1/2 1980	2.00	75	1975 BRITISH COLUMBIA HYDRO	86 2/4 5.42 12.63 11.51	102	1000	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983
15- 1980 AUSTRALIA, COMMONWEALTH 97.50 5.00 1/4/1982	92 3.25 7.56 5.51	100	1000	1/1980	10-2	1977 BOSTON AIRPORT CORP	88 4.15 6.75 11.59 10.20	100 1/2 1980	2.00	75	1978 CANADA'S	93 1/8 4.55 12.12 9.43	102	1000	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983
15- 1980 AUSTRALIA, COMMONWEALTH 97.50 5.00 1/4/1982	92 1.75 16.54 5.51	100	1000	1/1980	10-2	1977 BOSTON AIRPORT CORP	88 4.15 6.75 11.59 10.20	100 1/2 1980	2.00	75	1978 CANADA'S	93 1/8 4.55 12.12 9.43	102	1000	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983
15- 1980 AUSTRALIA, COMMONWEALTH 97.50 5.00 1/4/1982	92 1.75 16.54 5.51	100	1000	1/1980	10-2	1977 BOSTON AIRPORT CORP	88 4.15 6.75 11.59 10.20	100 1/2 1980	2.00	75	1978 CANADA'S	93 1/8 4.55 12.12 9.43	102	1000	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983
15- 1980 AUSTRALIA, COMMONWEALTH 97.50 5.00 1/4/1982	92 1.75 16.54 5.51	100	1000	1/1980	10-2	1977 BOSTON AIRPORT CORP	88 4.15 6.75 11.59 10.20	100 1/2 1980	2.00	75	1978 CANADA'S	93 1/8 4.55 12.12 9.43	102	1000	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983
15- 1980 AUSTRALIA, COMMONWEALTH 97.50 5.00 1/4/1982	92 1.75 16.54 5.51	100	1000	1/1980	10-2	1977 BOSTON AIRPORT CORP	88 4.15 6.75 11.59 10.20	100 1/2 1980	2.00	75	1978 CANADA'S	93 1/8 4.55 12.12 9.43	102	1000	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983
15- 1980 AUSTRALIA, COMMONWEALTH 97.50 5.00 1/4/1982	92 1.75 16.54 5.51	100	1000	1/1980	10-2	1977 BOSTON AIRPORT CORP	88 4.15 6.75 11.59 10.20	100 1/2 1980	2.00	75	1978 CANADA'S	93 1/8 4.55 12.12 9.43	102	1000	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983
15- 1980 AUSTRALIA, COMMONWEALTH 97.50 5.00 1/4/1982	92 1.75 16.54 5.51	100	1000	1/1980	10-2	1977 BOSTON AIRPORT CORP	88 4.15 6.75 11.59 10.20	100 1/2 1980	2.00	75	1978 CANADA'S	93 1/8 4.55 12.12 9.43	102	1000	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983
15- 1980 AUSTRALIA, COMMONWEALTH 97.50 5.00 1/4/1982	92 1.75 16.54 5.51	100	1000	1/1980	10-2	1977 BOSTON AIRPORT CORP	88 4.15 6.75 11.59 10.20	100 1/2 1980	2.00	75	1978 CANADA'S	93 1/8 4.55 12.12 9.43	102	1000	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983
15- 1980 AUSTRALIA, COMMONWEALTH 97.50 5.00 1/4/1982	92 1.75 16.54 5.51	100	1000	1/1980	10-2	1977 BOSTON AIRPORT CORP	88 4.15 6.75 11.59 10.20	100 1/2 1980	2.00	75	1978 CANADA'S	93 1/8 4.55 12.12 9.43	102	1000	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983
15- 1980 AUSTRALIA, COMMONWEALTH 97.50 5.00 1/4/1982	92 1.75 16.54 5.51	100	1000	1/1980	10-2	1977 BOSTON AIRPORT CORP	88 4.15 6.75 11.59 10.20	100 1/2 1980	2.00	75	1978 CANADA'S	93 1/8 4.55 12.12 9.43	102	1000	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983
15- 1980 AUSTRALIA, COMMONWEALTH 97.50 5.00 1/4/1982	92 1.75 16.54 5.51	100	1000	1/1980	10-2	1977 BOSTON AIRPORT CORP	88 4.15 6.75 11.59 10.20	100 1/2 1980	2.00	75	1978 CANADA'S	93 1/8 4.55 12.12 9.43	102	1000	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983
15- 1980 AUSTRALIA, COMMONWEALTH 97.50 5.00 1/4/1982	92 1.75 16.54 5.51	100	1000	1/1980	10-2	1977 BOSTON AIRPORT CORP	88 4.15 6.75 11.59 10.20	100 1/2 1980	2.00	75	1978 CANADA'S	93 1/8 4.55 12.12 9.43	102	1000	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983
15- 1980 AUSTRALIA, COMMONWEALTH 97.50 5.00 1/4/1982	92 1.75 16.54 5.51	100	1000	1/1980	10-2	1977 BOSTON AIRPORT CORP	88 4.15 6.75 11.59 10.20	100 1/2 1980	2.00	75	1978 CANADA'S	93 1/8 4.55 12.12 9.43	102	1000	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983
15- 1980 AUSTRALIA, COMMONWEALTH 97.50 5.00 1/4/1982	92 1.75 16.54 5.51	100	1000	1/1980	10-2	1977 BOSTON AIRPORT CORP	88 4.15 6.75 11.59 10.20	100 1/2 1980	2.00	75	1978 CANADA'S	93 1/8 4.55 12.12 9.43	102	1000	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983
15- 1980 AUSTRALIA, COMMONWEALTH 97.50 5.00 1/4/1982	92 1.75 16.54 5.51	100	1000	1/1980	10-2	1977 BOSTON AIRPORT CORP	88 4.15 6.75 11.59 10.20	100 1/2 1980	2.00	75	1978 CANADA'S	93 1/8 4.55 12.12 9.43	102	1000	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983	15/1/1983
15- 1980 AUSTRALIA, COMMONWEALTH 97.50 5.00 1/4/1982	92 1.75 16.54 5.51	100	1000	1/1980	10-2	1977 BOSTON AIRPORT CORP	88 4.15 6.75 11.59 10.20	100 1/2 1980	2.00	75	1978 CANADA'S										

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## A FINANCIAL TIMES CONFERENCE

# Austrian Quotes

## Quotations and Yields of Austrian Eurobonds

ISSUE	COUPON DATES	REPAYMENT	SINKING FUND (STARTING)	PRICE		CURRENT YIELD	CURRENT YIELD TO MATURITY
				BID	ASKED		
<b>D-MARK BONDS</b>							
6 1/2% Brenner Autobahn 1968 (G) .....	1-2-18	1.8.74-83	1.8.73	98 1/2	99 1/2	6.82%	7.17%
6 1/2% Donaukraftwerke 1959 (G) .....	1-2-18	12.65-81	—	97	97 1/2	6.17%	6.88%
6 1/2% Donaukraftwerke 1973 (G) .....	1.3	13.73-87	1.12.77	95 1/2	96	7.05%	7.52%
7% Girozentrale Wien 1976 .....	1.11	11.11.81	—	99 1/2	100	7.02%	7.13%
7% Girozentrale Wien 1976 .....	1.11	11.11.83	—	99	99 1/2	7.30%	7.32%
8 1/2% IAKW 1975 (G) .....	1.5	1.5.80-85	—	101	101 1/2	8.61%	8.45%
6 1/2% Kelag 1973 (S) .....	1.5	1.5.79-88	1.2.78	97 1/2	98	6.91%	7.11%
8 1/2% Oester. Draukraftwerke 1975 (G) .....	1.3	13.81-85	—	102 1/2	103	8.52%	8.04%
7% Oester. Elektrizateswirt 1937 (G) .....	1.2-1.8	12.73-87	—	100 1/2	101	6.95%	6.96%
7% Rep. Oesterreich 1968 .....	1.4-1.10	14.73-82	1.4.72	100	100 1/2	6.88%	6.97%
6 1/2% Rep. Oesterreich 1969 .....	1.4-1.10	14.75-83	1.1.74	98 1/2	99	6.57%	6.94%
9% Rep. Oesterreich 1975 .....	1.2	12.83	—	106	106 1/2	8.47%	6.73%
8 1/2% Rep. Oesterreich 1975 .....	1.5	1.5.78-87	1.2.77	102 1/2	102	8.29%	8.04%
7 1/2% Rep. Oesterreich 1976 .....	2.5	2.5.83-86	1.2.82	103	103 1/2	7.51%	7.10%
8 1/2% Rep. Oesterreich 1977 .....	1.4	1.4.83-85	2.1.82	98	99	6.82%	6.88%
6 1/2% Tauernkraftwerke 1968 (G) .....	1.3-1.9	1.9.74-83	1.9.73	98	99	6.53%	6.92%
7% Tauernkraftwerke 1968 (G) .....	1.2-1.8	12.74-83	—	99	100	7.02%	7.19%
9 1/2% Tauernautobahn 1974 (G) .....	1.7	1.7.81	—	102 1/2	103 1/2	9.22%	7.36%
8 1/2% Voest 1975 .....	1.10	11.0.79-88	1.6.78	100	101 1/2	8.42%	8.33%
8 1/2% Voest 1973 .....	1.8	1.6.81-85	—	101	102 1/2	8.36%	8.0%
6 1/2% Voest 1977 .....	1.6	1.6.84-89	—	95	96	7.03%	7.31%
7% Wien 1968 .....	1.6-1.12	16.74-83	1.6.73	99 1/2	100 1/2	7.00%	7.10%
8 1/2% Wien 1975 .....	1.8	18.79-84	—	100 1/2	101	8.15%	8.05%
<b>U.S.S BONDS</b>							
6% Rep. Austria 1964 .....	31.1-31.7	31.1.71-84	3.1.70	96	97 1/2	6.17%	6.88%
6 1/2% Rep. Austria 1967 .....	15.3-15.9	15.3.72-82	15.3.71	96 1/2	97	6.94%	8.23%
8 1/2% Rep. Austria 1976 .....	15.8	15.8.78-90	15.8.77	85 1/2	86	10.20%	11.06%
6 1/2% Aust. Electricity 1966 (G) .....	11-17	1.7.70-86	1.7.69	98	98 1/2	6.73%	7.04%
6 1/2% Aust. Electricity 1967 (G) .....	1.4-1.10	1.10.71-82	1.10.70	98	98 1/2	6.86%	7.51%
5 1/2% Alpine Montan 1965 (G) .....	15.6	15.6.72-85	15.6.71	92 1/2	93 1/2	6.17%	7.27%
8 1/2% Tauernautobahn 1977 (G) .....	15.3	15.3.83-87	15.3.82	85 1/2	86	9.63%	11.17%
6 1/2% Transalpine Fin. Hldg. 1966 .....	31.10	31.10.70-85	31.10.69	90 1/2	91 1/2	7.14%	8.48%
6 1/2% Transalpine Fin. Hldg. 1966 .....	31.7	31.7.70-85	13.7.69	93	94	7.22%	8.22%
6 1/2% Transalpine Fin. Hldg. 1967 .....	31.1	31.1.73-82	31.1.72	96 1/2	97 1/2	6.94%	8.20%
6 1/2% Transalpine Fin. Hldg. 1967 .....	30.4	30.4.74-83	30.4.73	96	97	6.99%	7.98%
7 1/2% Trans-Austria Gasline 1973 .....	15.1	15.1.77-88	15.1.76	75	76 1/2	9.50%	12.33%
<b>DOMESTIC ISSUES</b>							
8% Investitionsanleihe 1973/II/B .....	3.7	3.7.76-81 (103)	—	101 1/2	102 1/2	7.88%	8.15%
8 1/2% Investitionsanleihe 1974/II/B .....	22.10	22.10.75-82	—	100	100 1/2	8.37%	7.55%
8 1/2% Investitionsanleihe 1975/III/B .....	28.10	28.10.76-84 (103)	—	101 1/2	102 1/2	8.33%	8.49%
8 1/2% Investitionsanleihe 1975/S/III U.IV .....	27.11	27.11.79-85	—	102	103 1/2	8.21%	8.20%
8 1/2% Investitionsanleihe 1976/S .....	20.2	20.2.81-86 (104)	—	102 1/2	103	8.21%	8.20%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1976/S/II .....	2.7	3.7.83-86	—	98	99 1/2	8.06%	8.14%
8 1/2% Investitionsanleihe 1977/S/III/B .....	2.6	2.6.82-87	—	98	99 1/2	8.06%	8.13%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1977/II/B .....	15.9	15.9.82-86	—	98	99 1/2	8.06%	8.14%
8 1/2% Investitionsanleihe 1978/II/C .....	7.6	7.6.86	—	98	99 1/2	8.06%	8.14%
7 1/2% Investitionsanleihe 1978/5/C .....	3.10	3.10.86	—	97	97 1/2	7.91%	8.14%
7 1/2% Investitionsanleihe 1979-87/II .....	13.10	13.10.87	—	94	95 1/2	7.47%	7.81%
8% Energieanleihe 1978/C .....	1.3	1.3.86	—	98	99	8.06%	8.15%
8 1/2% Wiener Stadtanleihe 1975/B .....	29.4	29.4.76-83	—	160	160 1/2	8.46%	8.30%
8% Wiener Stadtanleihe 1977/B .....	10.5	10.5.82-87	—	96	99	8.06%	8.13%
8% Wiener Stadtanleihe 1978/1/C .....	3.5	3.5.88	—	98	99 1/2	8.08%	8.20%
8% Europaesche Investitionsbank 1976 .....	20.10	20.10.80-86 (100.5)	—	98	99 1/2	8.06%	8.14%
7 1/2% Europaesche Investitionsbank 1978 .....	22.12	22.12.86 (100.5)	—	96	97 1/2	7.93%	8.18%
8% Inter-Am. Entwicklungsbank 1976 .....	17.12	17.12.81-86	—	98	99 1/2	8.06%	8.14%
8% Tag Fineo Anleihe 1976 .....	19.11	19.11.81-86 (100)	—	98	99	8.06%	8.19%
8% Sparkassenanleihe 1977/S/B .....	26.7	26.7.80-83	—	93	99 1/2	8.02%	8.06%
7 1/2% Sparkassenanleihe 1978/S/C .....	4.7	4.7.86	—	97	98 1/2	7.87%	8.04%

(R) Purchase for redemption purposes by issuer possible. The bonds so purchased may be used for repayment according to plan. (...) Repayment at a premium. (G) Government Guarantee. (S) Local Government Guarantee. Yield calculations are based on the middle price.

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REGIONS	COMPANIES	BOND PRICE	YIELD %	DATE OF ISSUE	EXPIRY DATE	INTEREST PAYMENT	REPO RATE	CALL PRICE	PUT PRICE	NOTICE PERIOD	NOTICE DAY	NOTICE FEE	NOTICE CHARGE	
<b>CONVERGENCE-U.S. (CONTINUED)</b>														
17.0	1966 HERCULES TORNADO INC.	100.00	5.35	1/1/1980	S	67 1/8	7.15	6.00	101	1500	-4.00	77 26	1500	
17.0	1972 AMF	65 1/8	7.61	12.23		30	130.70	50	52 1/4	50	15/10/1985	S	18	
30.	1965 5.00 15/9/1987	14 3/4	8.41	6.40	102	1/2	1980	30	100.00	50	15/10/1986	S	18	
15.	1968 MARSH POWER INT'L	69 5/8	7.61	11.49		30	50.85	27	24.17	30	15/10/1986	S	18	
15.0	1960 4.00	5.23	17	11/1980	S	25	3.20	4.00	100	3/4	1500	15/10/1986	S	18
20.	1966 LAMBERT IND	60 1/2	7.75	7.00	100	1500	15/10/1986	25	50.42	50	15/10/1986	S	18	
11.0	1960 5.00	5.00	1/1/1980	S	45 3/4	8.25	5.00	100	1500	15/10/1986	25	50.50	5.00	
25.	1972 BEATRICE FOODS O/S	78 1/4	7.75	7.17	101	1/2	1980	30	6.88	50	15/10/1986	S	18	
25.0	1964 4.50	5.1	9/1982	S	25 1/2	8.50	5.00	100	1500	15/10/1986	25	50.50	5.00	
22.	1972 BEATRICE FOODS O/S	75 1/4	8.25	7.75	101	1/2	1980	30	6.88	50	15/10/1986	S	18	
22.0	1966 4.50 15/10/1982	25 1/2	8.50	5.00	100	1500	15/10/1986	25	50.50	5.00	15/10/1986	S	18	
25.0	1971 BEATRICE FOODS O/S	91 1/8	8.50	7.25	101	1/2	1980	30	1.96	50	15/10/1986	S	18	
20.	1970 BEATRICE FOODS O/S	113 1/4	6.42	5.61	*	30	50.85	27	24.17	30	15/10/1986	S	18	
20.	1973 BEATRICE FOODS O/S	72 1/2	7.75	7.17	100	1500	15/10/1986	25	50.42	50	15/10/1986	S	18	
30.	1973 BEATRICE FOODS O/S	24 1/8	7.50	7.00	102	1500	15/10/1986	25	50.42	50	15/10/1986	S	18	
30.	1971 BEATRICE FOODS O/S	95 1/8	7.75	7.25	100	1500	15/10/1986	25	50.42	50	15/10/1986	S	18	
30.	1960 4.50	5.1	7/1982	S	25 1/2	8.50	5.00	100	1500	15/10/1986	25	50.50	5.00	
15.	1960 4.50	5.1	5/12/1980	S	25 1/2	8.50	5.00	100	1500	15/10/1986	25	50.50	5.00	
15.0	1960 4.50	5.1	5/12/1980	S	25 1/2	8.50	5.00	100	1500	15/10/1986	25	50.50	5.00	
32.	1972 BEATRICE FOODS O/S	67 1/2	7.04	6.45	30	61 1/2	101	1/2	1980	15/10/1986	S	18		
15.	1968 4.75 15/10/1987	63 1/8	6.33	7.00	100	1500	15/10/1986	25	50.42	50	15/10/1986	S	18	
15.	1965 4.50	5.00	3/1980	S	25 1/2	8.50	5.00	100	1500	15/10/1986	25	50.50	5.00	
15.0	1960 4.50	5.00	3/1980	S	25 1/2	8.50	5.00	100	1500	15/10/1986	25	50.50	5.00	
25.	1973 CATERPILLAR	65 1/8	6.14	10.68	30	35.53	40	32.06	25	15/10/1986	S	18		
25.0	1960 4.00	4.40	1/1/1980	S	25 1/2	8.50	5.00	100	1500	15/10/1986	25	50.50	5.00	
5.	1964 CATERPILLAR	34 1/2	7.25	6.75	100	1500	15/10/1986	25	50.42	50	15/10/1986	S	18	
5.0	1960 4.00	4.40	1/1/1980	S	25 1/2	8.50	5.00	100	1500	15/10/1986	25	50.50	5.00	
50.	1970 CATERPILLAR	61 1/8	10.17	10.66	30	1.40	40	32.06	25	15/10/1986	S	18		
12.	1968 CHESTERFIELD INC	55 1/4	5.40	5.41	*	30	50.85	27	24.17	30	15/10/1986	S	18	
12.	1968 CHESTERFIELD INC	55 1/4	5.40	5.41	*	30	50.85	27	24.17	30	15/10/1986	S	18	
25.	1969 CHESTERFIELD INC	68 1/4	6.82	5.43	30	9.43	50	5.00	15/10/1986	S	18			
22.0	1960 6.25	15/10/1982	22	4.91	5.00	102	1/2	1980	15/10/1986	S	18			
50.	1968 CIRCUIT OIL O/S	173 1/2	7.25	6.50	101	1/3	1980	15/10/1986	S	18				
13.0	1968 CIRCUIT OIL O/S	173 1/2	7.25	6.50	101	1/3	1980	15/10/1986	S	18				
15.	1968 CIRCUIT OIL O/S	173 1/2	7.25	6.50	101	1/3	1980	15/10/1986	S	18				
50.	1960 5.00	5.1	1/1/1980	S	34 1/2	7.25	6.50	101	1/3	1980	15/10/1986	S	18	
50.	1970 CIRCUIT OIL O/S	173 1/2	7.25	6.50	101	1/3	1980	15/10/1986	S	18				
25.	1968 CIRCUIT OIL O/S	173 1/2	7.25	6.50	101	1/3	1980	15/10/1986	S	18				
25.0	1968 CIRCUIT OIL O/S	173 1/2	7.25	6.50	101	1/3	1980	15/10/1986	S	18				
15.	1968 CONTROL DATA INC	68 1/2	7.30	10.29	30	50.85	27	24.17	30	15/10/1986	S	18		
15.0	1968 CONTROL DATA INC	68 1/2	7.30	10.29	30	50.85	27	24.17	30	15/10/1986	S	18		
20.	1968 COUNTRY INVESTMENT	62 1/2	12.40	10.18	30	100.00	101	1/2	1980	15/10/1986	S	18		
15.0	1968 COUNTRY INVESTMENT	62 1/2	12.40	10.18	30	100.00	101	1/2	1980	15/10/1986	S	18		
30.	1978 COCA-COLA BOTTLING	74 5/8	9.05	10.28	35	11.94	50	5.00	15/10/1986	S	18			
30.0	1960 6.75	15/10/1983	6	7.33	8.00	102	1/2	1980	15/10/1986	S	18			
30.0	1960 6.75	15/10/1984	6	7.33	8.00	102	1/2	1980	15/10/1986	S	18			
25.	1968 CONTINENTAL TELEPHONE	83 3/4	6.57	5.50	30	50.85	27	24.17	30	15/10/1986	S	18		
25.0	1960 5.00	5.1	3/1988	S	16 1/2	11.56	5.50	30	50.85	27	24.17	30		
15.	1968 CONTROL DATA INC	68 1/2	7.30	10.29	30	50.85	27	24.17	30	15/10/1986	S	18		
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20.	1968 COUNTRY INVESTMENT	62 1/2	12.40	10.18	30	100.00	101	1/2	1980	15/10/1986	S	18		
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15.	1968 COUNTRY INVESTMENT	62 1/2	12.40	10.18	30	100.00	101	1/2	1980	15/10/1986	S	18		
15.0	1968 COUNTRY INVESTMENT	62 1/2	12.40	10.18	30	100.00	101	1/2	1980	15/10/1986	S	18		
20.	1968 COUNTRY INVESTMENT	62 1/2	12.40	10.18	30	100.00	101	1/2	1980	15/10/1986	S	18		
20.0	1968 COUNTRY INVESTMENT	62 1/2	12.40	10.18	30	100.00	101							

# Iran awakens banks to political risk

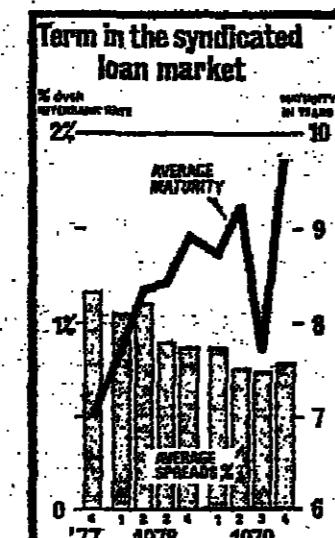
BY NICHOLAS COLCHESTER

THERE IS now an uneasy calm in the syndicated bank lending market as banks and borrowers across the world wait and see how the much-anticipated increase in the banks' fees and interest margins will develop.

This calm is strangely at odds with the "crisis" which was supposedly unleashed upon the banking world by President Carter's decision to freeze Iranian assets in American banks. Today, with the benefit of seven weeks hindsight, it seems fair to assert that the fabric of the Euromarket has survived the Iranian shock and the period of acute uncertainty which followed the "Volcker package" in October.

None of these events has come close to matching the collapse of Herstatt Bank in 1974 in its immediate impact on the market for syndicated loans; yet who can deny that each one of them was far more important than the failure of a small German bank?

"Herstatt was revolutionary,



to the market, were the most obvious target of this discrimination.

Banks may pretend that questionable loans are still good assets, but they cannot pretend that they have no way to raise them. The Herstatt crisis effectively reduced the number of participating banks, and hence the competition, in a very nervous business. This created classic conditions for a rise in prices which, in the loan market, means a stiffening of terms and conditions.

So far, no problem on the asset side of the international loan business—that is, fears over the credibility of borrowing countries—has yet had this crucial effect of raising fears about the credibility of certain banks. Neither the debt problems of Zaïre, Turkey, and Iran, nor the turbulence in U.S. interest rates which followed the Volcker package have led to fragmentation of interest rates in the Eurodollar deposit market. It is the prospect of some future country default which

does have an impact on bank deposits which prompts deep concern about the present role of international banks.

The U.S. freeze of Iranian bank assets came, in the words of Mr. André Cousteau of Kreditbank Luxembourg, as "an excuse and as a waking up." It was an additional excuse for banks to claim that terms on loans must end their long slide in favour of the borrower (see chart).

It was a waking up to the reality of political risk. The delusion that the syndicated loan market was a piece of the world economy somehow beyond the reach of Government interference was swept away. The events in Iran thus primed the financial markets to react as quickly as they have to the possibility that the "credit weapon" might be used in retaliation against the Russian invasion of Afghanistan.

Dr. Walter Seipp, vice-chairman of Westdeutsche Landesbank, has referred to the Iranian debacle as "a singular event." It was singular because it was a rare case of a borrower with deposits and assets in Western countries which matched its liabilities.

What remains is a widespread wariness which has given added impetus to a trend in lending terms which was already established before the Iranian hostages were seized.

These terms reached their easiest point just before the IMF meeting in Belgrade at the start of October last year. The "jumbo" loan of \$1.2bn for Brazil, which was put together during this meeting probably marked the end of the decline.

It was a loan for 12 years with an initial "spread" above the London interbank offered rate of 1 per cent. Since then the resistance of bankers has stiffened. Loans of above 8 years are now hard to arrange and loans originally conceived last autumn are proving hard to sell—one example would be

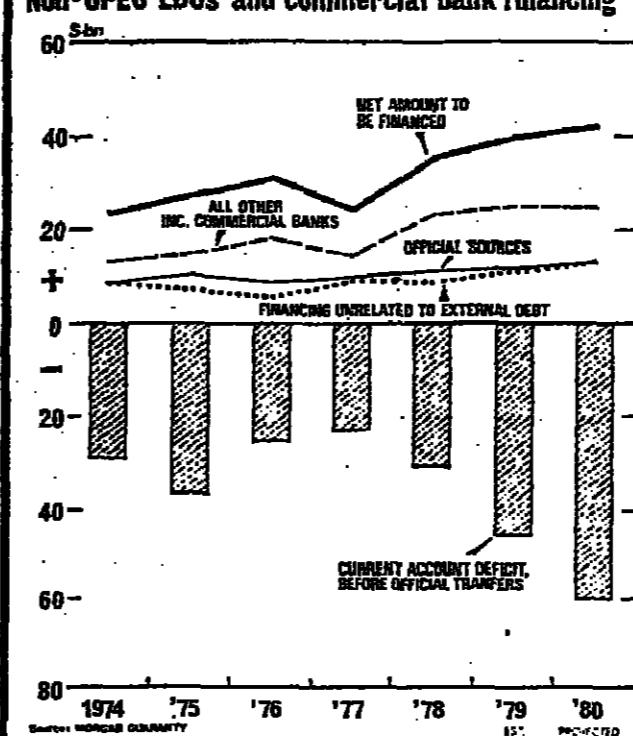
where the machinery of default on a major syndicated loan has been tested through its conclusion.

The resulting legal wrangles and the precedents which will be established in their solution, will have significant technical consequences for the way loan agreements are drafted. When can banks seize a borrower's bank assets? How do banks in one loan protect themselves when assets are seized by banks in another? How are seized assets shared out? These are just some of the practical questions thrown up by Iran.

But, equally, there are consequences which Iran does not seem to have had. There does not seem to be any permanent damage to the relationship between banks of different nationalities which will prevent them coming together in syndicates in the future. There does not seem to be any large-scale shifting of deposits by developing countries out of U.S. banks. There does not seem to be any significant flight out of U.S. dollar deposits into other currencies; it would certainly show in the exchange rate if there had been.

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## Non-OPEC LDGs and commercial bank financing



There was a worrying increase in the financing requirements of the developing world which resulted from the rise in the price of oil.

The last point constitutes the challenge which lies beyond the market's current uneasiness. Only a year ago it seemed that the second oil shock would be rather small beer compared with the first one and that the International banks would be able to channel the resulting OPEC surpluses towards the deficits of other countries without too much trouble.

The critical question for Brazil is how much longer it must pay 14-15 per cent to service the bank loan element in its \$50bn of foreign debt, and not whether it pays a spread over that rate of 2 per cent or 1 per cent for its new borrowing.

Should the banks go on lending? The oil price rise has prompted a new wave of suggestions from bank economists and bank executives that the burden be taken off the bank's shoulders. The alternative solutions include a greater role for the IMF as lender and loan arbiter, increased aid, new international lending institutions, more direct lending and investment by the OPEC countries, and greater recourse to the bond market by third-world borrowers.

All of these seem preferable to the present "willing suspension of disbelief". Yet it seems safe to assume that the alternatives will only be introduced piecemeal and when banking relations with specific debtors—Poland or Turkey, perhaps—reach a total impasse where bank syndicates are unwilling or unable to provide additional funds on whatever terms.

The only way to bring on such a situation, except via the next, perhaps more damaging, crisis of a debtor country, is a toughening of the regulatory framework in which the international banks operate. This is why it is depressing to read reports that the major central banks have decided to "go slow" on the development of international banking regulations precisely to make it easier for the banks to repeat their recycling performance.

terms for stretched developing countries will become stiffer. This stiffening is of great consequence to the profitability of banks, who live off the "spread," but only of minor significance to the borrowers whose problem is availability of funds and the absolute level of dollar interest rates.

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Order, and on the Housing Support Grant (Scotland) Orders.

## COMPANY RESULTS

Fiscal dividends: Bett Brothers, Kenning Motor Group, Interim dividends: Howard Shuttering (Holdings), Restmor Group.

Interim figures: Murray Northern Investment Trust.

## COMPANY MEETINGS

See Financial Diary on Page 15.

## LUNCHEON TIME MUSIC

London Recorded music, All Hallowe'en-by-the-Tower, Byward Street, EC3, 1.0 pm.

Piano recital by Paul Berkowitz, St. Lawrence Jewry, Gresham Street, EC2, 1.0 pm.

## Today's events

### GENERAL

UK: Mr. Geoffrey Armstrong, BL employee relations director, meets union negotiators on pay claim.

Steel unions' representatives meet Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service on steel strike.

Welsh leaders from the coal, steel and transport unions meet to discuss proposed industrial action.

Mecanno employees meet to discuss Liverpool factory shut-down.

Result of Esso tanker drivers' strike ballot expected.

Wm. Press executives accused of fraud—committal proceedings at special court, Caxton Hall, London.

Sir Peter Gadsden, Lord Mayor of London, lunches with chairmen and directors of the London Electricity Board, New Broad Street, EC2; dines with Grocer's Company at Grocer's Hall, EC2.

International Toy Trade Fair, Harrogate (until January 17).

Overseas: Lord Carrington, Foreign Secretary, on five-nation tour, starts three-day visit to Islamabad, Pakistan.

European Parliament five-day session opens Strasbourg.

ECC Foreign Affairs Council starts two-day meeting Brussels.

## OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Department of Trade publishes provisional retail sales figures for December.

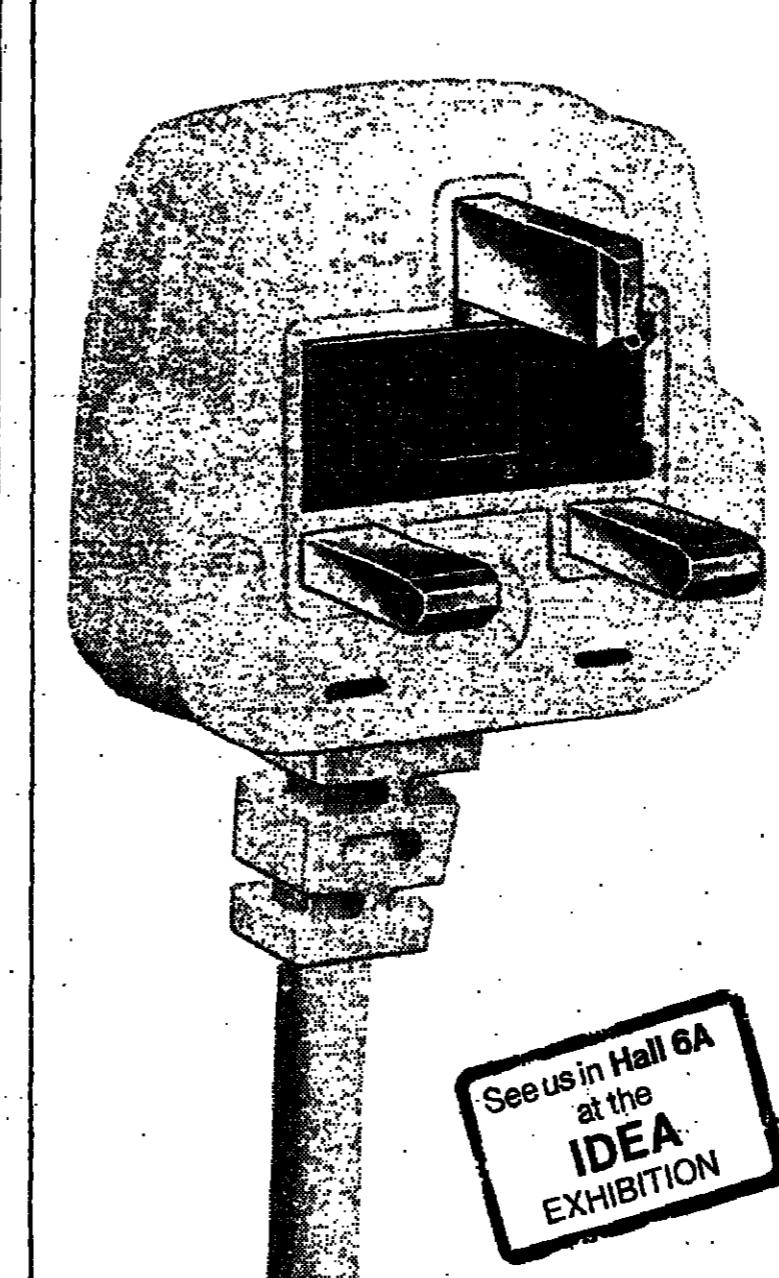
## PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

Parliament resumes after the Christmas Adjournment.

House of Commons: Second reading, Tenants Rights, Etc.

(Scotland) Bill. Motions on the Rate Support Grant (Scotland)

# The Pencon Plug is now connected to some famous names.



Electrical appliances fitted with the Pencon plug lead are now on sale in shops and showrooms throughout the UK and will come into even more widespread use as time goes on. A number of large and leading appliance manufacturers have adopted the Pencon plug as a standard fitment throughout their ranges of products with similar intentions in evidence by many other manufacturers in the electrical appliance industry.

The Pencon plug has been developed in the interest of public safety. The objective was to produce an integral plug lead which would be supplied to electrical appliance manufacturers thereby enabling appliances to be ready for use immediately and safely without any additional work on the part of the user.

Furthermore the Pencon plug complies with the requirements of BS 1363A as far as this is relevant and in fact goes beyond this Standard in view of the radically new nature of the product. It is accepted by BEAB (British Electrotechnical Approvals Board) for use on BEAB approved appliances.

The plug is protected by patents and copyright designs.

# PENCON®

Developed in the interest of consumer safety by Pendle Connectors Ltd., Pendle Mill, Elizabeth Street, Leigh WN7 3AE. Tel. (0942) 603412, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Ward & Goldstone Group of Companies of which Pencon is a registered trade mark.

## Letters to the Editor

### Investment and construction

From the Director of Economic Affairs, National Federation of Building Trades Employers

Sir—Mr. Samuel Brittan in his Economic Viewpoint (January 3) and Mr. Peter Riddell in his analysis of the "new round of cuts" (December 21) have admirably drawn to our attention the enormity of the task which the Government has set itself in finding another £2bn or so of cuts to the 1980-81 public expenditure plans which were set out in the "mini" White Paper published early in November.

While Mr. Brittan may have a valid point in his strictures upon the know-nothing anti-indexation brigade, we are still left with the thorny question of where the Government is going to rustle up these cuts from between now and early March when the delayed full public expenditure White Paper is due to be published. Mr. Riddell put his finger on a key concern arising out of this question when—with masterful understatement—he said that "there is a limited extent to which capital investment can be cut back further without causing damage in the long-term." Indeed, I would submit that after the massive and disproportionate cuts of capital spending in recent years there is no room left at all for further reductions.

Readers will, no doubt, have been quick to label my "special interest" and to foresee the case that I shall put forward to protect my neck of the public expenditure woods, namely construction programmes. Of course, I am serving the interests of construction firms, who service those programmes—I should hardly deny it—but the most compelling reasons for raising the alarm bells about possible construction cuts concern the future prosperity of the economy as a whole just as vitally as the health and stability of the construction industry.

This Government and its predecessor have gone on record in recognising the important contribution of a strong construction industry towards the revival of the economy's fortunes and the immense damage which has been done in the past through the violent and disproportionate cutting of construction projects as the easiest target to hit in a crisis. The Government has also criticised the steady erosion in recent years of capital investment as a proportion of total government expenditure. Since 1973-74, for example, capital investment has declined from 2.3 per cent to 1.8 per cent of total public expenditure, while construction spending has fallen from 1.4 per cent to 1.0 per cent.

To its credit, this Government did at least maintain a commitment to stability in construction programmes—albeit at woefully inadequate levels relative to our objectively identified needs for replacement sewers, improved water system, more efficient road network and so on—when it published its 1980-81 expenditure plan two months ago. The unseen arithmetic behind this commitment may have raised some suspicious eyebrows but, given the tight constraints within which the Treasury had been obliged to work, "its record speaks for itself." So it does.

### Assassination run

From Mr. J. Gerson

Sir—Reluctant as I am to reply to a criticism of myself, believing critics are entitled to their opinions, favourable or otherwise, I read with incredulity Mr. Dunkley's staggeringly inaccurate review (January 9) of my TV serial *The Assassination Run*.

Yes, I did last year adapt Desmond Bagley's *Running Blind*. It was a thriller about

the Treacherous County Council.

Sir—Your report of January 3 does not distinguish between

Post Office policies

From the Managing Director, Posts, Post Office

Sir—Julian Blackwell, a former chairman of the Mail Users Association, criticises the postal service for failing to see into the future as clearly as the MUA (January 7).

He criticises me for "refusing to consider and discuss the question of reviewing delivery arrangements. But the possibility and desirability of various changes to delivery arrangements have been in consideration for some time. And how can his statement be true when report no. 21 of the Post Office Users' National Council says that "The Post Office is currently consulting POUNG and the unions on this matter?" I hope that Mr. Blackwell would agree that a considered review of present delivery arrangements in the light of customers' changing communications needs and labour availability should precede the conclusions on the changes which might be made. That is what I am doing.

Mr. Blackwell urges me to be more responsive to MUA advice on this subject, but if I were to make decisions on the basis of MUA pronouncements what should I make of these two contrasting statements by that body: "MUA opposes the idea of a single delivery a day because of the severe worsening of service it would produce" (MUA Press statement June 17, 1976) and "There is little justification in the 1980/81 second delivery to domestic areas. A start should be made to phase this out in order to avoid panic measures later" (MUA Press statement December 30, 1979). In his letter Mr. Blackwell says that the "MUA's record speaks for itself." So it does.

### The value of benefits

From Mr. D. Lindsay

Sir—Mr. Frank Field, MP, (January 8) wonders why middle-class families have taken so passively the Government's failure to increase child benefit. I can think of five good reasons.

It is in the nature of the middle classes to work for their keep and the keep of their families rather than to hold out a begging bowl for still more state largesse. Many middle-class families who might otherwise have complained have found it easier simply to sidestep the loss of child tax allowance by means of non-parental covenants, and so ensure for their children the advantages of an indexed tax allowance. Middle-class families have practised rigid economy, cutting down on, for example, toys (hence the failures among manufacturers), theatre and restaurant outings (I find children now a rarity in theatre audiences) and holidays (except for the camping variety in Britain) and even—this should be cause for concern—having fewer or no children. Middle-class children are now taking on more paid work at weekends and in school holidays, and many more middle-class mothers are, regrettably, now in paid employment. There is no association representing the family through which protest could be channelled, anyway.

Mr. Field also asks what grounds I think a benefit that was specifically directed towards needy families, eg, by clawing back the child benefit drawn of tax-paying families, instead of being given freely to everyone, would have been increased under a Thatcher Government. Simple arithmetic and common sense supply the answer to that question.

D. G. Lindsay.

Postal Headquarters Building,

St. Martin's le Grand, EC1.

## Companies and Markets

## Institutions get opportunity to confront Airfix on Meccano

INSTITUTIONAL shareholders of Airfix Industries will be able to confront the company over the troubled Meccano subsidiary at meetings later this month.

W. Greenwell, the company's stockbrokers, have arranged meetings on January 23 and 24 at which nearly 20 fund managers will be able to question chairman Mr. Ralph Ehrmann. Between them, the institutional shareholders own more than 40 per cent of the company's shares, with Norwich Union holding 6.3 per cent—the largest stake.

A spokesman for Greenwell said yesterday that the most important issue would be Meccano, where losses have topped £4m over three years. Airfix intends to close down the Liverpool factory but this is being opposed by the workforce, who have staged a sit-in.

Airfix's profits have slumped from £1m in 1976-77 to £1.5m last year. For the first half of the current year, profits dipped from £0.85m to £0.26m and the prospects for the second half, which includes the important Christmas season, are not encouraging.

### THORN-EMI

Following Thorn's offer for EMI becoming unconditional, Thorn and EMI have agreed the terms of proposals to be submitted to holders of the 8½ per cent convertible unsecured loan stock 1981 of EMI.

In view of the right to convert into EMI ordinary stock at December 31, 1980 (the final conversion date), EMI convertible stockholders will be able to exchange all or any part of their holdings of convertible stock for ordinary shares and convertible preference shares of Thorn.

### BOARD MEETINGS

The following companies have notified dates of board meetings to the Stock Exchange. Summarised are details for the purpose of considering dividends. Official indications are not available as to whether dividends are interim or final and the sub-divisions shown below are based mainly on last year's timetable.

TODAY

Intertape, British Electric Traction, Challenge Corporation, Davy Corporation, Diksons Photographic, Hamond Trunk, London and Montreal Invest Trust.

Jan. 17 Textured Jersey, Western Board Mills, Wimpeys, Fisons.

Jan. 18 Albion, Amalg. Tin Mines of Nigeria, Mulchless.

Jan. 19 Jan. 20

The basis of exchange will be 15.87 ordinary shares and 32.57 7½ per cent convertible redeemable second cumulative preference shares, 1982-1989, for every £100 nominal of EMI convertible stock.

In addition it is proposed that, with effect from February 8, 1980, the rate of interest payable on the convertible stock will be increased from 8½ per cent to 8½ per cent per annum.

### Requote plan at Louis Edwards

Dealing in the shares of Louis C. Edwards and Sons (Manchester), suspended at 38p last November pending reorganisation, are expected to resume on January 29.

This will follow an EGM the previous day at which shareholders will be asked to approve the acquisition of Cordon Bleu Freezer-Food Centres. The company is also making an offer to a consideration of £0.45m.

acquire Furniss and Co., a manufacturer of biscuits and confectionery.

Documents have been sent to shareholders setting out full details of Cordon Bleu and Furniss.

The company, which is managed by Mr. Fred Gulliver, former head of Fine Foods, said discussions relating to the proposed merger of Morgan Edwards, a grocery distribution company, were proceeding "satisfactorily" and that an announcement will be made at about the time of the extraordinary meeting.

Following the acquisition of Cordon Bleu and Furniss, the consolidated net assets of Louis Edwards and its subsidiaries will increase from £1.83m to £3.46m.

To assist the financing of Cordon Bleu, Edwards is proposing a rights issue of one-for-10 to raise around £0.45m gross.

The maximum consideration for Cordon Bleu is £2.65m, while the offer for Furniss through Yorkshire Biscuits, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Edwards, involves a consideration of £0.45m.

### FUTURE DATES

Jan. 17 Interpace, British Electric Traction, Challenge Corporation, Davy Corporation, Diksons Photographic, Hamond Trunk, London and Montreal Invest Trust.

Jan. 18 Textured Jersey, Western Board Mills, Wimpeys, Fisons.

Jan. 19 Albion, Amalg. Tin Mines of Nigeria, Mulchless.

Jan. 20 Jan. 21

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14th January, 1980

## The British Bank of the Middle East

A Member of the Hongkong Bank Group

announces the opening of a new branch at

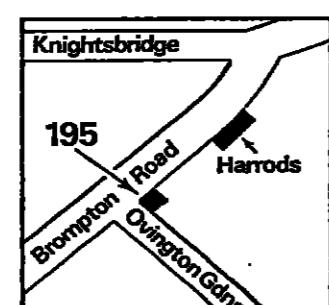
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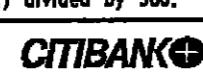


Payment of the principal of, and interest on, the Notes is unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteed by

THE NIPPON CREDIT BANK, LTD.  
(Kabushiki Kaisha Nippon Shinyo Ginko)

In accordance with the provisions of the Reference Agency Agreement between the Nippon Credit Bank (Curacao) Finance N.V. and Citibank, N.A. dated July 1, 1979, notice is hereby given that the rate of interest has been fixed at 14½% p.a. and that the interest payable on the relevant Interest Payment Date, July 14, 1980, against Coupon No. 2 will be U.S.\$72.59 and has been computed on the actual number of days elapsed (182) divided by 360.

By: Citibank, N.A., London  
Agent Bank  
January 14, 1980



## Kelsey Industries Ltd.

Statistics from the Report of the Chairman, Mr. J. G. Moss, and the accounts for the 12 months to 30 September 1979.

	1978/79 £'000	1977/78 £'000
Turnover	23,097	19,076
Direct exports	8,338	7,027
Profit before tax	2,243	2,139
Profit after tax	1,051	1,158
Ordinary dividends	230	129
	(24%)	(14.4435%)
Total funds retained	1,139	1,351
Net assets	8,886	7,742
Earnings per share	23.8p	26.3p

## UK COMPANY NEWS

### British Vita explains Vita-tex offer

In a bid document, British Vita has disclosed reasons for its £4.2m agreed offer for Vita-tex, the Slough-based textile finisher.

British Vita says it is seeking the acquisition because both companies have related interests in supplying the automotive and furniture industries. It expects to provide new outlets for Vita-tex products and use Vita-tex know-how.

Vita-tex has received assurances regarding continuance of the Vita-tex business by existing management and employees including confirmation that current plans at Vita-tex will not be adversely affected.

Rudimentary at Vita-tex are not expected as a direct result of the proposed acquisition.

The cash-and-shares package offered by British Vita values each Vita-tex ordinary share at 12.6p. Shareholders who accept the offer before February 5, the date of the extraordinary general meeting to approve the bid, can convert British Vita shares into all-call settlements worth £120.10p per Vita-tex share.

Directors and institutional shareholders holding 63.8 per cent of Vita-tex shares have irreversibly accepted the offer.

Since its last balance sheet in December 1978, British Vita has acquired Foam Components for £235,000, the Libeltex NV group for £235,000, the Portways for £1.15m.

NPI is a market leader in the self-employed pensions market, but it found 1978 a bad year for this type of business. New annual premiums declined by 23 per cent on the year and single premiums by 7 per cent. Overall, new premiums received for self-employed pensions were 15 per cent lower at £1.28m.

However, the company's pension business remained firm, with new sums assured amounting to £26.3m compared with £26.1m.

### NEW LIFE BUSINESS

## National Provident raises bonuses

BY ERIC SHORT

National Provident Institution, a leading mutual life company, has declared record bonus rates for both reversionary and terminal bonuses on its with-profit life and pensions business.

For its series 2 life assurance policies (issued since 1976), the reversionary bonus rate for 1979 is lifted by 20p from £4.25 per cent to £4.45 per cent of the sum assured and attaching bonuses. On series 1 policies, issued before 1976, the rates, based on the sum assured only, are all increased by 28 per cent.

The reversionary bonus rates on Self-Employed Retirement Plans are improved by 30p to 6.30 per cent compound for the current series and 5.80 per cent compound for policies issued before May 1, 1971.

The bonus rate for Visible Growth Fund and Capital Pension Plan contracts for 1979 is increased to 6½ per cent per annum, making 12½ per cent, against 11 per cent, on the average amount standing on the credit of the deposit account.

Terminal bonuses have been improved slightly from £2.4m to £2.6m and group pensions and permanent health business from £2.6m to £4.2m. Self-employed pension premiums doubled to £385,000 and executive pension premiums rose from £41,000 to £52,000.

The company's next full declaration will be in respect of the three years ending December 31, 1980.

The company has improved its reversionary bonus rates in respect of claims in 1980. On life assurances, the rate is lifted from 10 per cent to 15 per cent plus 1 per cent for each year prior to 1970, the rate being based on the total bonuses.

On personal pension policies the rate is improved from 40 per cent in 50 per cent plus 1 per cent for each year prior to 1970, again based on total bonuses.

New life assurance business was virtually unchanged last year with new annual premiums reaching £523,000 against £536,000 in 1978. New sums assured amounted to £26.3m, compared with £26.1m.

with new premiums rising by 4 per cent to £9.1m.

Executive premiums are increased to £1.2m against £1.15m.

On farmers' pension policies the rate is lifted from 27.50 per cent to 28 per cent of the basic benefit.

The terminal bonus rate on claims during 1980 on life assurance policies will be maintained at 10 per cent plus 1 per cent for each policy year prior to 1970 based on the total bonuses.

For the farmers' pension policy the rate is lifted from 40 per cent to 50 per cent plus 1 per cent for each year prior to 1970, of total bonuses.

The company had a good year for new life assurance business, mainly with profit endowment assurances with new annual premiums up from £560,000 to £580,000.

Retirement annuity business however fell on the year—annual premiums declining by 27 per cent to £750,000 (£1.02m) and single premiums by 3 per cent to £947,000 (£979,000).

### SPAIN

	Price	%	+/-
January 11			
Banco Bilbao	205		
Banco Central	220		
Banco Exterior	210		
Banco Hispano	130		
Banco Ind. Cat.	175		
Banco Santander	235		
Banco Uruguay	77		
Banco Zaragoza	205		
Dragados	100		
Espanola Zinc	58		
Fecsa	56		
Gas Preciosas	61.7		
Hidroituero	80.2		
Petroleos	113		
Petrolifer	73		
Sogefisa	115		
Tabacalera	121		
Union Beta	61.2		

### NATIONAL FARMERS

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited  
27/28 Lovet Lane, London EC3R 8EF Telephone: 01-638 8651

Company	Last price	Change	Gross Div (p)	Yield %	P/E


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## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Companies and Markets

## NEW YORK

1979-80		1979-80		1979-80		1979-80		1979-80		1979-80		1979-80		
High	Low	Stock	Jan.	11	High	Low	Stock	Jan.	11	High	Low	Stock	Jan.	11
4014	384	Columbia Gas	504	514	514	514	Ot. At. Pan. Test	714	624	542	542	Mesa Petroleum	154	154
1814	142	AMF	15	15	242	214	GT. Bassins Pet.	201	262	152	152	Schlitz Brew. J.	914	914
2234	223	Cont. Ins. Am.	15	15	194	594	GT. Nthn. Nekoos	334	754	504	504	Schumberger	924	924
424	62	AMF Ind.	15	15	274	174	GT. West Financ.	192	252	152	152	SCN	274	274
4674	225	ASA	4674	4674	582	272	Greymann	107	124	472	472	Scott-Foreman	274	274
474	474	Abbotts Lab.	412	412	482	282	Conn. Satell.	114	124	454	454	Scott Paper	164	164
21	21	Acote Oil & Gas	46	46	594	594	Gulf & Western	182	582	262	262	Seidler Dv.	104	104
264	254	Aetna Life & Cas	854	854	194	104	Gulf Oil	84	132	8	8	Seidler Pow.	244	244
254	254	Aetna Life & Cas	854	854	242	214	Hall (FB)	254	242	8	8	Seitran L.	174	174
1424	1424	Aetna Life & Cas	854	854	254	254	Comp. Science	194	204	8	8	Security Pac.	204	204
2234	2234	Aetna Life & Cas	854	854	262	254	Conn. Cons.	204	214	8	8	Sedco	244	244
114	114	Alcoa Aluminum	554	554	274	214	Conn. Gen. Life	164	164	8	8	Shell Trans.	274	274
554	554	Alcoa Standard	524	524	274	214	Conn Freight	282	372	8	8	Shearman	44	44
224	224	Alcoa Standard	524	524	282	214	Conn Natl.	242	252	8	8	Shawind.	277	277
1274	1274	Alcoa Standard	524	524	292	214	Conn Power	174	182	8	8	Shk. Mont.	214	214
274	274	Albany Int'l	804	804	474	474	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nova Scot.	224	224
45	45	Albany Int'l	804	804	482	474	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	144	144
254	254	Albertson's	404	404	482	474	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	124	124
21	21	Acote Oil & Gas	46	46	494	474	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	104	104
264	254	Acote Oil & Gas	46	46	502	482	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	84	84
254	254	Acote Oil & Gas	46	46	512	492	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	64	64
254	254	Acote Oil & Gas	46	46	522	502	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	44	44
254	254	Acote Oil & Gas	46	46	532	512	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	24	24
254	254	Acote Oil & Gas	46	46	542	522	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	4	4
61	61	Alcoa	61	61	554	534	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	14	14
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	562	542	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	12	12
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	572	552	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	10	10
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	582	562	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	8	8
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	592	572	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	6	6
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	602	582	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	4	4
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	612	592	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	2	2
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	622	602	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	0	0
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	632	612	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	14	14
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	642	622	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	12	12
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	652	632	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	10	10
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	662	642	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	8	8
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	672	652	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	6	6
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	682	662	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	4	4
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	692	672	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	2	2
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	702	682	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	0	0
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	712	692	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	14	14
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	722	702	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	12	12
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	732	712	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	10	10
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	742	722	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	8	8
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	752	732	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	6	6
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	762	742	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	4	4
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	772	752	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	2	2
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	782	762	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	0	0
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	792	772	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	14	14
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	802	782	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	12	12
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	812	792	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	10	10
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	822	802	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	8	8
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	832	812	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	6	6
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	842	822	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	4	4
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	852	832	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	2	2
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	862	842	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	0	0
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	872	852	Conn Telep.	14	14	8	8	Shk. Nov. Scot.	14	14
61	61	Alcoa Sugar	874	874	882	862	Conn Telep.	14	14</td					

## INSURANCE

## Protection for directors

BY OUR INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

WHEN A person is appointed to a company board, he or she, as a director of that company, will be holding a position of trust and will be expected to behave accordingly. But what may not be fully appreciated is that directors could be accountable at law for the performance of their duties and be personally held financially liable for any consequences.

In their everyday work directors need to be mindful of their responsibilities to their company, their shareholders, their employees and to the public. Failure to carry out these responsibilities can result in legal action and heavy damages.

The problem is that it is all too easy for the director to be judged at some later date for an act the consequences of which can be seen only with the benefit of hindsight. But reports in recent news have shown some far from innocent actions by directors.

Directors have certain statutory duties—in addition to the well-established common law liability of care and skill in the performance of their work. The Companies Bill, now being discussed in Parliament, is likely to define for the first time the

responsibilities of directors, perhaps being made financially bankrupt. They can now get protection through a directors' and officers' liability insurance scheme much as a professional man can get professional indemnity insurance.

One such scheme, aimed at providing as complete protection as possible has been launched by a company appropriately named Directors and Officers, a member of the Employers' Protection Group, based in Sutton.

Each policy covers all directors on the board and the company's senior officers, providing indemnity against damages, out-of-court settlements and legal fees incurred in defending civil and some criminal proceedings.

Cover is evaluated on an individual basis and thus varies with the company's size and the number of directors. The minimum cover is £50,000, and the maximum £2m, though higher covers can be specially arranged. Premiums are paid by the company.

The scheme does not provide cover against actions of a director as a result of dishonesty, fraud or malicious authorised payments, errors of judgment, or many other circumstances.

A prudent board of directors should not allow itself to take on the risk of one or more of its members being personally taken to task for mistakes and

taken to task for libel or slander.

## UK TRADE FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

Date	Title	Venue
Jan. 15-17	International Toy Fair (01-228 6553) (until Jan. 17)	Harrowgate
Jan. 23-30	International Domestic Electrical Appliances Exhibition (01-458 1851)	NEC, Birmingham
Jan. 26-30	HOTELMPIA—International Hotel and Catering Exhibition (021-705 6707)	Olympia
Jan. 30-Feb. 1	British Toy and Hobby Fair (01-701 5127)	Earls Court
Feb. 3-7	Microsystems '80 Exhibition (01-281 8000)	Wembley Conference Centre
Feb. 4-7	International Spring Fair (Consumer Goods) (01-499 7224)	NEC, Birmingham
Feb. 8-11	INFEX—International Floorcoverings Exhibition (01-236 0613)	Hotel Metropole, Brighton
Feb. 12-15	Interflow '80—Fluid Handling Exhibition (01-680 7525)	Harrowgate
Feb. 18-21	Crafts Dog Show (01-493 7838)	Earls Court
Feb. 25-29	INFO '80—International Business Computing, Word Processing and Information Management Exhibition (01-647 1001)	Cavendish International, London
Feb. 25-29	International Men's and Boys' Wear Exhibition—IMBEX (021-705 6707)	Olympia
Feb. 25-29	European Information Management and Conference (01-388 4506)	Wembley Conference Centre
Feb. 25-29	International Electrical Exhibition (0483 222888)	NEC, Birmingham
Feb. 25-29	International Instruments, Electronics, and Automation Exhibition (021-705 6707)	NEC, Birmingham
Feb. 25-29	International Pneumatic & Hydraulics Exhibition, including Compressors and Power Transmission Equipment (021-705 6707)	NEC, Birmingham
Feb. 25-29	Drawing Office Show—DOMINA (01-242 3621)	Wembley Conference Centre
Feb. 29-Mar. 9	Camping, Outdoor, Holiday Exhibition and Motor Caravan Show (01-282 2888)	Olympia

## OVERSEAS TRADE FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

Date	Title	Venue
Jan. 18-24	International Record and Music Publishing Market (01-499 2917)	Cannes
Jan. 19-27	International Boat Show (01-408 0856)	Dusseldorf
Jan. 19-27	International Commercial Motor Show	Geneva
Jan. 20-26	Middle East Construction Exhibition (01-215 7877)	Jeddah
Jan. 22-26	International Exhibition for Agricultural Mechanisation—AGROMEX	Harrowgate
Jan. 25-Feb. 3	International Green Week (01-540 1101)	Berlin
Feb. 1-4	Canada Farm Show	Toronto
Feb. 1-10	International Stationery Show—SIPPA (01-439 3964)	Paris
Feb. 2-5	International Boat Show	Vancouver
Feb. 4-8	INTERTEXTILE—International Textile and Fabrics Trade Fair—INTERTEXTILE	Sydney
Feb. 7-11	International Jewellery, Gold and Silver Exhibition—Jewellers (01-580 5316)	Bahrain
Feb. 11-15	Men's Fashion Show—PITTI UOMO	Florence
Feb. 11-21	Environmental Pollution Control Techniques Exhibition—ENVITEC (01-408 0856)	Dusseldorf
Feb. 11-21	International Boat Show (01-439 3964)	Paris
Feb. 11-21	Middle East Machinery, Light Industry and Plant Maintenance Show (021-454 4416)	Cologne
Feb. 22-24	International Men's Fashion Week (01-408 0856)	Copenhagen
Feb. 26-29	World Fair of Technology Exchange—TECHEX (01-584 5749)	Singapore
Mar. 2-9	Offshore South East Asia Exhibition (01-486 1951)	Paris
Mar. 2-9	International Agricultural Exhibition (01-439 3964)	

## BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT CONFERENCES

Date	Title	Venue
Jan. 14-15	HAI: Solar Energy in the 80s (01-602 2837)	London Penta Hotel
Jan. 14-17	NDA: International Materials Handling Conference and Exhibition (01-388 5352)	Ryl Lancaster Hotel, London
Jan. 14-25	CEI: International Financial Management Seminar over IBC—Concrete '80—Conference and Exhibition (01-342 2481)	Hong Kong
Jan. 15-16	Henley Centre for Forecasting: Quantitative Techniques for Forecasting (01-552 9961)	Wembley Conference Centre
Jan. 16	BCI: Changing Nature of Middle East Trade (021-544 6171)	24 Tudor Street, EC4
Jan. 21-22	FT Conference: The 1980 Euromarkets Conference (01-236 4382)	Inter-Continental Hotel, W1
Jan. 23	IPS: Purchasing Computers for the Small and First Time Users (0990 23711)	London
Jan. 23	CCC: Retention of Title—Resolving Conflicts Between Manufacturers, Lenders and Suppliers (01-222 6362)	London Press Centre, EC4
Jan. 28-31	CCC: Practical Guide to Standard Form of Building Contract (01-222 6362)	Lythe Hill Hotel, Haslemere
Jan. 30-Feb. 1	AMR: Finance and Accounting for the Non-Financial Executive (01-268 2732)	London Press Centre, EC4
Feb. 7	Ovez-IBC: Children in Tax Planning (01-242 2481)	Holiday Inn, NW3
Feb. 7	ASM: The legal implications of engineering contracts (01-385 1982)	Piccadilly Hotel, W1
Feb. 8	Admap: Classifying People (01-379 6576)	Royal Garden Hotel, W8
Feb. 8	CCC: Accounting for Developing Company Policy Within the Law (01-222 6362)	Europa Hotel, W1
Feb. 11-12	AMR: International: Positive Discipline (01-282 2732)	Grosvenor House Hotel, W1
Feb. 13-14	RRG Conferences: Captive Insurance Companies—Establishment, Operation, Management (01-236 2175)	Portman Hotel, W1
Feb. 18-19	AMR: International: Energy Management in Buildings (01-232 2732)	Cumberland Hotel, W1
Feb. 18-19	ADMAP Seminars: Calculating the effects of advertising—How useful are they to the advertiser? (01-797 8578)	Lyon Arms Hotel, Worcs.
Feb. 26-27	FT Conference: British Business Opportunities Overseas (01-236 4382)	Grosvenor House, W1
Feb. 28-29	FT Conference: Monopolies, Mergers and Restrictive Practices (01-236 4382)	Munich
Feb. 25-29	Moroccan Ministry of Trade and Industry in co-operation with UN Industrial Development Organisation: International Industrial Investment Forum (01-584 5527)	Rabat

## Financial Times Conferences

British Business Opportunities Overseas — London — February 26 & 27, 1980  
Mr. Manfred Caspari, Deputy Director-General, External Relations, of the EEC has agreed to speak on the topic "The European Community Dimension" and Mr. S. D. Wilks, C.B., Chief Executive of the BOTB will be guest speaker at lunch.

International Sweetener & Alcohol Conference — The Future of Sugar

London — April 1-3, 1980

To be arranged by the World Commodity Publishing Inc., publishers of the World Sugar Journal, and the Financial Times and timed immediately after the International Sugar Organisation's meeting in London. Speakers of international repute in the industry will examine a wide-ranging series of topics and their implications for the development and operation of the industry and its market.

All enquiries should be addressed to:

Financial Times Limited  
Conference Organisation  
Bracken House 10 Cannon Street  
London EC4P 4BY

Tel: 01-236 4382  
Telex: 27347 FTCONF G  
Cables: FINCONF LONDON

## APPOINTMENTS

## Management changes in Hawker Siddeley group

Mr. G. W. Downs has been appointed a director of CROMPTON PARKINSON, Guiseley, Leeds. Mr. D. J. Edwards becomes a director of CROMPTON PARKINSON VIVOR, Dundee and South Shields. Mr. W. T. Grant has joined the Board of HAWKER SIDDELEY POWER PLANT, Thrup, Gloucestershire, as technical director. Mr. R. D. Johnson has been made general manager of CROMPTON ELECTRICARIS, Tredegar, Gwent. Mr. E. F. R. Pluck has been appointed to the Board of HAWKER SIDDELEY POWER TRANSFORMERS, Walthamstow E17, as works director. \*

Mr. Iver R. Goddard has been appointed money manager of EURO-LATINAMERICAN BANK in succession to Mr. Geoffrey E. Field, who becomes consultant to the bank on money market matters prior to retirement. \*

Mr. J. W. Morgan has retired from the Board of BUCKLEY'S BREWERY, having been a director for 12 years and emloyed by the company since 1931. His place on the Board in a non-executive capacity is taken by Mr. Martin D. Richards, a solicitor, whose father and grandfather before him were directors. \*

Mr. Stephen Blund has been appointed a manager with responsibility for operations, at NORDIC BANK. \*

The insurance broking office of C. T. Bowring (London) at Romford was reconstituted from January 1 as a separate company now trading in the name of C. T. BOWRING (EASTERN). Chairman is Mr. R. A. Mackie; chief executive, Mr. V. G. GROUP. \*

## CONTRACTS

## Bovis to build hypermarket

A 17,000 sq metre hypermarket, with parking for 1,340 cars, is to be built at Calcot, Berkshire under a management contract awarded to BOVIS CONSTRUCTION by Savacentre, the company formed jointly by J. Sainsbury and British Home Stores. Valued at around £5.5m, it is believed to be the first management contract awarded in Britain for a retail development of this nature. Work on the main structure begins in May and is programmed for completion in July 1981. \*

Three contracts in Abu Dhabi worth nearly £9m, have been awarded to Al Qabeeli-Mowlem, a Mowlem Group associate company. At Al-Alin, the largest contract, awarded by the Al-Alin municipality and worth £4.2m, is for a flyover at Hazza al-Maqam. Construction will be of pre-stressed and glued segmental concrete, similar to Mowlem's Byker viaduct at the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Metro. The company has also won a £3m contract at Abu 'Abiyat Island, west of Abu Dhabi, for a water pipeline to supply the island and to dredge a channel for ferries. The ruler of Abu Dhabi, Shaikh Zayed, has awarded Al Qabeeli-Mowlem a £1.5m contract for a 20-mile (33 km) long water supply pipeline round Bayan Island. \*

CHARLTON-LESLIE OFF-SHORE, a member of the BTB group, has been awarded module contracts from major operators in the North Sea oilfields. Total value of orders exceeds £5m. Largest is for an 800-tonne power generation module and three

drill package modules for Phillips Petroleum's Maureen platform, for delivery in the later part of 1980. The company is also to undertake the fabrication of a 750-tonne living quarters module for Chevron Petroleum's Ninian Central platform. A further contract, awarded by Amoco UK Exploration, is for the delivery of a 700-tonne compression module for the Rough field. \*

GEC TELECOMMUNICATIONS has won £7.9m worth of orders from the British Post Office for 30-channel pulse code modulation (PCM) equipment. PCM equipment enables 30 high-quality speech-bandwidth circuits carrying telephone and data signals to be transmitted over two pairs in an ordinary telephone cable which would normally carry only two circuits. \*

Contracts worth more than £2.5m have been awarded to the civil engineering division of GEC CONSTRUCTION. The Central Electricity Generating Board has awarded a contract worth £1m for the provision of railborne coal unloading facilities at their Willington "A" and "B" power stations in Derbyshire. In connection with the reorganisation scheme for the Dodworth colliery at Redbrook Shaft near Barnsley, the National Coal Board has awarded a contract for the preliminary civil works comprising the provision of access roads, car park, etc., at a cost of £0.9m. Other contracts secured include drainage improvements to two tributaries of Nunn Brook, Commonside, near Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire. \*

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, removal of a disused railway embankment on the A16 at Stickney Bridge in Lincolnshire for the county council; construction of reinforced concrete hardstanding in Goole Docks for the British Transport docks board; and reconstruction of existing sidings at Hambleton, near Selby for British Rail—total value £0.73m. \*

Three offshore cranes for North Sea operations have been ordered from STOTHERY AND PITTS by Mathew Hall Engineering at a cost of around £1.7m for the British Petroleum Magnus platform. Each of the cranes has a lifting capacity of 11.4 tonnes at 51 metres under Sea State Six and will be fitted with a patented "fall safe" protection device to reduce the risk of permanent overload damage or loss. Production of the three cranes has already commenced and completion is scheduled for the spring of 1982. \*

MARPLES RIDGWAY BUILDING has won a £1.2m contract for the first phase of the development of the former British Steel site at River Way, Greenwich. Marples Ridgway's contract is split into two sections. The first is the refurbishment of an existing steel framed factory unit of three bays. The second is for the design and erection of three factory unit buildings. The buildings are steel framed on piled foundations, with external steel cladding and brick walls. There are internal fire walls and partitions, together with office and toilet units. The contract also includes for landscaping areas of the site. \*

## WEEK'S FINANCIAL DIARY

The following is a record of the principal business and financial engagements during the week. The Board meetings are mainly for the purpose of considering dividends and official indications are not always available whether dividends concerned are interim or final. The sub-divisions shown below are based mainly on last year's timetable.

COMPANY MEETINGS—

ALBERT HUMPHREYS LTD—Annual General Meeting, 15.2.80, at 1pm.

ALLEN & HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LTD—Annual General Meeting, 15.2.80, at 1pm.

ALLEGRA LTD—Annual General Meeting, 15

## Loan terms to reflect true risks, says WestLB

By NICHOLAS COLCHESTER

THE READY availability of bank deposits will ensure no rapid general tightening in the terms of syndicated lending, Dr. Walter Seipp, vice-chairman of the Westdeutsche Landesbank, said in Luxembourg last week. But he saw clear signs that terms on riskier loans would tighten to reflect their true risk.

Opening the new offices of WestLB International in Luxembourg, Dr. Seipp said: "As far as the industrialised countries are concerned, I do not believe in a fundamental reversal of the present situation of silver-thin spreads. But an increase in the spreads and a shortening of maturities is to be expected for developing countries, particularly for those which have reached a high degree of indebtedness."

Dr. Seipp said that with the completion of its Luxembourg offices, WestLB had more or less

completed the setting up of its foreign network, which began with the establishment of operations in London and Luxembourg in 1972. He pointed out that, in contrast to the big German commercial banks, WestLB is a "wholesale" international bank and it has no branches or subsidiaries in places where commercial banking business predominates, and where the financing business alone does not justify a subsidiary.

Some 30 per cent of WestLB's international loans are channelled through the Luxembourg subsidiary, and the Luxembourg bank's figures reflect the rapid growth of the Eurocurrency business. Since 1972/73, WestLB International's balance sheet has grown at an average annual rate of 19.3 per cent, to DM7.1bn (\$4.1bn) at end-September last.

Feature, Page 11

## Ansett chief sells stake to News Ltd.

By James Forth in Sydney

SIR REGINALD ANSETT, founder and chairman of the airline, transport and television group, Ansett Transport Industries (ATI), has agreed to sell his personal shareholding in the group. Sir Reginald is selling to the media group, News Ltd., headed by Mr. Rupert Murdoch, who recently took over from Sir Reginald as chief executive of ATI.

Sir Reginald did not accept a formal takeover bid from the transport group, Thomas Nationwide Transport (TNT), which owns 23 per cent of ATI, and is seeking to buy out the remaining minority holders to give it an equal 50 per cent stake with News Ltd.

TNT is offering a \$2.25 (US\$2.50) a share, and the ATI Board has recommended acceptance.

The details of Sir Reginald's sale of his 1m shares representing £4 per cent of ATI's capital, will be included in the formal takeover documents, which are also expected to include details of retirement and other benefits paid to him.

### Burns Philp to take up Hanimex rights

By Our Sydney Correspondent

FOLLOWING DETERMINED action by the Sydney Stock Exchange, the diversified industrial group, Burns Philp and Company, has agreed to extend its on-market offer for the international photographic group, Hanimex Corporation, to include the rights to a current cash-raising issue.

Burns Philp acquired 49 per cent of Hanimex last month, and announced that it would stand in the market for one month at ASL97 (US\$2.19) a share, which was the equivalent price after allowing for scrip and rights issues which had already been announced.

# FT UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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Monday January 14 1980

On stream  
On time  
with Capper-Neill  
On site

## Hopes of deal on hostages dashed

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE IRANIAN government yesterday dashed hopes in the United Nations that an accommodation could be reached on the hostages at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran without an American motion for economic sanctions against Iran being put to the vote.

Prospects of a second Soviet veto within a week in the UN Security Council increased last night as the council moved towards a vote on the issue. It was delayed twice at the weekend as UN officials sought clarification of a message from Teheran.

It became clear yesterday, however, that the message in a letter to Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the UN Secretary-General, did not amount to a new initiative.

Mr. Sadegh Ghotbzadeh, the Iranian Foreign Minister, told Dr. Waldheim that the only solution to the hostage's plight was an international inquiry commission into the alleged crimes of the Shah, as they had discussed during the Secretary-General's recent visit.

But this commission alone would not be enough—Iran still demanded the extradition of the Shah and the return to Iran of his property.

In the letter Mr. Ghotbzadeh warned that if the Security Council's decisions were not in accordance with Iran's demands, they would be considered null and void.

The Security Council vote might be postponed again. Non-aligned members, whose support is critical for the American initiative, were said last night to be eager to allow even more time for further contacts between Dr. Waldheim and the Iranians, but Mr. Donald McHenry, the U.S. representative, was growing increasingly impatient over the delays.

Continued from Page 1

## Rhodesia

and German contractors, while it is almost certain that the two aircraft needed for the London to Salisbury run will be second-hand Boeing 707s.

The development plan also calls for about R\$1.68bn (£1.1bn) to be spent building four hydro-electric power stations on the Zambezi. About £670m of this is likely to be spent overseas.

The entire Rhodesian railway network is due for electrification and modernisation in the next 10 years, with total expenditure likely to be about R\$500m (£335m).

About R\$30m (£20m) of this, say the British directors, is to be spent shortly on new locomotives.

The British team said many areas of Rhodesian industry and agriculture needed re-equipping. Almost all the country's tractor fleet needed replacement. Export opportunities would arise from building much-needed schools and houses, particularly for Africans.

Other opportunities would emerge as the tourist industry developed. There were plans to moderate telephone systems.

The delegation members said among political contacts it had not noted any strong determination for widespread nationalisation of overseas companies in Rhodesia, but a number of parties were in favour of joint venture schemes in some cases.

Mr. Moorfoot said prospects were good for some areas of the Rhodesian economy, particularly for mining and agriculture. British companies should not automatically assume that they would resume the dominant position they held formerly in the Rhodesian market.

An 11-man exploratory mission organised by the Confederation of British Industry leaves London today for Rhodesia for a week.

## New development centre for British Gas

BY DAVID FISHLOCK, SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITISH GAS will open a development centre in Yorkshire as part of a £300m commitment to new technologies for making substitute natural gas (SNG).

This was disclosed by Sir Denis Cooke, chairman of British Gas, in an interview on the Corporation's long-range plans for maintaining natural gas supplies throughout Britain.

Sir Denis said although Britain's reserve base of off-shore gas supplies was "still climbing," the corporation had undertaken a major commitment to the manufacturer of methane at high pressure—substitute natural gas—from a range of potential feedstocks.

He favoured methane rather than hydrogen as the safer fuel at high pressure, and one in

problems for the lira which has been under intermittent pressure since mid-autumn.

With inflation running at almost 20 per cent, the Bank of Italy has lifted its discount rate in two stages since October, bringing it up from 10.5 per cent to 15 per cent.

The figures released yesterday by ISTAT, the Italian statistics institute, are still provisional, but they raise the accumulated deficit for the first 11 months of last year to Ls.017bn (£1.67bn), compared with a surplus of Ls17bn (£1.05bn) in the same period of 1979.

This evidence of the weakening in Italy's competitive position could well cause further

prices in anticipation of further price increases.

The high level of imports in November, up 16 per cent on monthly, and 27 per cent on an annual basis, also indicate that the economy's dynamism continued well into the autumn, beyond the expectations of many analysts.

Industrial production figures for November, released yesterday, show output was still running at more than 6 per cent above 1978 levels, and the signs are that in the north of Italy at least, this trend may have continued up to Christmas.

The November deficit almost certainly is freakishly high, reflecting heavy stockpiling of raw materials as well as higher oil

The trade returns also show that Italy was not only in deficit

on oil products, by an unprecedented Ls.200bn in November, but that other items, on which the country has normally achieved a substantial surplus, also dropped into the red, by Ls.258bn.

This depressing development follows growing problems in deficit sectors, including foodstuffs and chemicals, as well as a fall in the surpluses in traditionally strong export sectors like textiles and engineering goods.

In the first 11 months of 1979, total exports rose 23.3 per cent to Ls.735bn, but imports grew even faster to Ls.752bn. The oil deficit alone climbed to Ls.255bn, from Ls.262bn.

THE LEX COLUMN

## Refining BNOC's market plans

Last year will have brought substantial profits, and assets employed will have climbed from £100m to nearly £1bn, financed to the extent of around 60 per cent by debt.

### Exploration hopes

The semi-official view of the present asset value seems to be as high as £2bn, but most analysts find themselves unable to agree at that figure except by putting BNOC's reserves in at something above the current price of \$30 a barrel, and by ascribing a high value to the exploration acreage. It is hard to see £2bn as a conservative estimate, and the stock market would probably value BNOC at considerably less—unless, of course the oil price went wild again, which looks unlikely in the short term.

It will not be surprising if the Government were to repeat

its policy from the time of the BP sale and make sure that as much of the stock as possible is sold its way into the hands of private investors. This is supposed to make renationalisation harder, as well as being attractive to the Conservatives ideologically. The issue, however, will need to be cleverly pitched to persuade those investors now sitting on hefty losses on their shares to come forward again.

The valuation of this sort of company is prodigiously difficult, partly because the value of reserves rises sharply with marginal increases in the oil price, and partly because the exploration acreage—as in the oil bid—is very much an unknown factor. BNOC is committed to a certain amount of new drilling at present, but the returns are impossible to estimate. The enormous diversity in the bids received in the U.S. for Belridge Oil, finally carried off by Shell Oil for \$3.65bn, more than twice the Mobil/Texaco bid, gives some idea of the potential differences of opinion over what BNOC may be worth.

The lucky merchant banks chosen to solve this problem are likely to proceed from the standpoint of asset valuation, rather than current profits. BNOC has announced no figures since the 1978 calendar year results, which showed a net loss of £3m.

Under the present system BNOC buys crude oil from the producers and sells it on at contract price to its customers, some of which are competitors of the North Sea producers. The producers are then left to buy their own marginal requirements in the spot market at a far higher price.

## French bank in securities talks

By Arnold Krasnow

SOCIETE GENERALE, the state-owned French banking group, is negotiating with London brokers Straus Turnbull & Co. about co-operating in the securities business.

On the contrary, the main thrust of his remarks was that the attack had been launched by a "clique of renegades" who were ill-organised, badly trained, and uneducated.

Meanwhile, Lord Carrington yesterday had a long meeting with Prince Nayef, the Saudi Foreign Minister, after arriving here from two days of talks in the Sultanate of Oman. Today he has audiences with King Khalid and Crown Prince Fahd before leaving for Pakistan.

From there he will travel to New Delhi before returning to London.

### Long-standing

Mr. Turnbull confirmed that discussions had been taking place for some months but he would not speculate on how long negotiations might take.

In Paris, Societe Generale declined to comment.

Straus Turnbull, which has a large volume of overseas business, is a long-standing dealer in the Eurobond market. Together with White Weld, it played a large part in establishing the Eurobond market in the 1970s.

Societe Generale figures among the top echelons on Eurobond underwriting groups but is not yet considered as a major force in bond trading.

A stock exchange spokesman said an outside interest in UK broking companies was not unusual. But in the case of a partnership, normal Stock Exchange rules would limit an outside shareholder to no more than one-ninth of the company's equity.

The call for the other cuts is in line with the Chancellor's thinking. But the CBI's preference for industrial aid to be protected may embarrass some senior ministers, including Sir Keith Joseph, Industry Secretary, who believe that the aid should be phased out quickly.

In a memorandum sent last

night to Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, the CBI says: "The financial pressures on the company sector are severe and we therefore urge that no further economies be made for the present in assistance to trade and industry. To do otherwise would threaten adverse consequences for investment and employment."

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